



PRESS RELEASE

UN Biodiversity Convention on track to develop ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- *Critical work on developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework continues despite adjusted roadmap for achieving ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
- *Alternative arrangements being explored for SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 meetings originally scheduled for late August 2020; some preparatory sessions may be held virtually in early September.*
- *Post-2020 framework expected to play a significant role in building resilience in the face of growing environmental, health and development challenges.*

29 May 2020 – Due the continued uncertainties arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as restrictions on travel and the convening of large physical gatherings, the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on implementation (SBI-3), original scheduled for 17-22 August and 24-29 August 2020 respectively, will not take place physically at those dates in Montreal, Canada.

Instead, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is exploring alternative arrangements. These include:

- The possibility of holding some preparatory sessions for the meetings virtually in early September.
- The possibility of holding physical meetings of SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 in the second half of October 2020, subject to logistical constraints and restrictions on travel and the convening of large gatherings being lifted.

“The current COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how critical biodiversity health and ecosystem stability is for the world,” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Acting Executive Secretary. “Consequently, agreeing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework is now even more important. This pandemic has shown in clear terms that international cooperation is paramount for the health of our nature, our economies and our people. Now is the time to ensure that we do what is right for human wellbeing.”

The CBD Secretariat is presently consulting with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP Bureau), the SBSTTA Bureau, and the SBI Chair, as well as the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on these matters, and will make further announcements in due course.

The Secretariat and the Bureaux remain committed to ensuring the successful and timely preparation of these meetings, the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other preparations



for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and associated meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, scheduled for next year in Kunming, China.

Furthermore, the Secretariat is preparing a series of webinars on various issues related to the agenda items of SBSTTA and SBI to be held in June, July and August. A list will shortly be made available on the CBD website (www.cbd.int/)

NOTES TO EDITORS

The **Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice** plays a key role in assessing the current status of the world's biodiversity and in bringing emerging issues related to the conservation of biodiversity to the attention of the global community.

Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-24

The **Subsidiary Body on Implementation** has four areas of work: (a) review of progress in implementation; (b) strategic actions to enhance implementation; (c) strengthening means of implementation; and (d) operations of the Convention and the Protocols.

Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3): www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-03

Preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 172 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 124 Parties.

For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For media inquiries, please contact David Ainsworth on +1 514 561 2720 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
