



## PRESS RELEASE

# UN Biodiversity Convention's Conference of the Parties holds three extraordinary meetings to address urgent programmatic matter for 2021

- *Postponement of 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference necessitates extraordinary meetings to consider and approve interim budget for 2021.*
- *Aim to ensure continued operation of CBD Secretariat and enable Parties to pay their dues in 2021.*
- *Meetings to be held remotely and concurrently.*

**13 November 2020** – The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is hosting three extraordinary meetings to consider and approve an interim budget for 2021.

The purpose of the meetings is to ensure the continued operation of the CBD Secretariat and strengthen momentum in the implementation of its programme of work pending the holding of postponed governing bodies conferences. The current budget of the CBD Secretariat runs out 31 December 2020.

The meetings, the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the first extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, will be held remotely and concurrently 16-19 November 2020.

The meetings became necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting postponement of the fifteenth meeting of the COP, originally scheduled for October 2020 and now rescheduled for 2021, as the approval of a programme budget for the next biennium (2021-2022) was not possible through an ordinary meeting of the COP.

Normally, the budget for the CBD programme of work of the CBD is approved for two calendar years, with the programme budget for the current biennium (2019-2020) approved by the COP at its fourteenth meeting, held in 2018.



Next year in Kunming, China, CBD Parties will negotiate a new 10- year global framework for biodiversity related policy-making. The framework will set new goals for the protection and sustainable use of nature.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Meeting documents: First extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization:

[www.cbd.int/meetings/NP-EXMOP-01](http://www.cbd.int/meetings/NP-EXMOP-01)

### **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, 173 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 129 Parties.

For more information visit: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int). For media inquiries, please contact David Ainsworth on +1 514 561 2720 or at [david.ainsworth@cbd.int](mailto:david.ainsworth@cbd.int); or Johan Hedlund at [johan.hedlund@cbd.int](mailto:johan.hedlund@cbd.int).

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