

PRESS RELEASE

UN Biodiversity Convention pauses virtual meetings essential to development of post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- *Meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the CBD complete first phase; meetings go on pause, not formally closed; discussions to resume face-to-face at a later date.*
- *Two CBD subsidiary bodies meetings contribute to development of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to be discussed in August 2021 at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.*
- *Framework expected to play significant role in building resilience, galvanizing national action and international cooperation for nature in face of growing environmental, health and development challenges.*

Montreal, 14 June 2021 – Following six weeks of virtual meetings, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has completed the first part of the meetings of its scientific and implementation subsidiary bodies, essential to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework due for adoption later this year in Kunming, China. As planned the meetings have been suspended, with discussions set to resume face-to-face at a later date.

The results of 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) will provide advice on the scientific and technical underpinnings of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and complement it with elements related to means to support and review implementation, respectively.

“These meetings highlight that notwithstanding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the world cannot wait to advance on issues so critical to human well-being, sustainable development and to the future of all life on Earth,” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary.

“When we embarked on this effort, we could only hope that it would go as smoothly as it has. Yes, there have been challenges along the way, but with resilience and determination, we have largely overcome the many challenges these virtual sessions have thrown our way. We are now one step closer to adopting the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in Kunming.”

SBSTTA-24:

- SBSTTA-24 established the foundation for further discussions on COP-15 agenda items. It was the most highly attended session of SBSTTA to date, with more than 1400 registered participants from 127 countries and over 200 organizations participating.
- Through 9 plenary sessions and 14 sessions of negotiations in “Contact groups” and “Friends of the Chair”, the Subsidiary Body addressed all 8 substantive agenda items developed draft recommendations (available at: www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24/documents)
- Recommendations concerning the fifth *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, synthetic biology, risk assessment and management of living modified organisms, agricultural biodiversity, and the programme of work



of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – were approved and will be formally adopted by the face-to-face meeting of SBSTTA-24. Many draft recommendations have a number of unresolved elements in square brackets

- Three other recommendations on marine and coastal biodiversity, invasive alien species, as well as one to be developed on health and biodiversity, will be also considered at the face-to-face meeting of SBSTTA-24.

SBI-3

- SBI-3 saw 1004 registered participants from 115 countries and 158 organizations taking part in the negotiations.
- SBI-3 heard from Parties and observers on 12 agenda items through plenary sessions, contact groups meetings and Friends of the Chair consultations. During the six-week session, the SBI developed 16 draft recommendations, with some approved at this meeting and others to be approved as SBI-3 resumes at a later date.
- SBI-3 resulted in several significant inputs for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which constitute important advice for the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as they develop the first draft of the global biodiversity framework and prepare for the third meeting of the Working Group which gets underway on 23 August.
- SBI-3 contributed key elements related to the means to support and review implementation, including resource mobilizations, capacity building and development and mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and review of implementation as well as outreach, and awareness.
- SBI-3 also reviewed progress in the implementation of the Convention's other instruments, namely the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, and the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions related to traditional knowledge.
- SBI-3 negotiations have laid a firm foundation for further discussion at COP 15.

These meetings will allow for the timely preparation of COP-15 and related meetings of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, being held from 11-24 October 2021 in Kunming, China under the theme, "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth".

Due to the conditions imposed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, governments agreed to conduct preparatory negotiations in a virtual format. The meetings represent the first online negotiations organized under the Convention and do not constitute a precedent for the organization of future meetings under the CBD.

The CBD Secretariat and all participants appreciate challenges related to various time zones, connectivity problems on some countries, lack of time for consideration of some items as well as lack of time to address more interventions from observers during plenary sessions and some others. The Convention will further analysis lessons learned and use this opportunity to adjust for the future meetings.

NOTES TO EDITORS

SBSTTA-24/SBI-3 documents: www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24/documents

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

Updated zero draft of post-2020 framework: www.cbd.int/article/zero-draft-update-august-2020

Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – 23 August – 3 September 2021 (online): www.cbd.int/meetings/WG2020-03

UN Biodiversity Conference – Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity): www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15; Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-MOP-10 Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing: www.cbd.int/meetings/NP-MOP-04

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the CBD 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 CBD has near universal participation among countries. The CBD 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 peoples 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 CBD. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biodiversity 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. Entering into force 12 October 2014, it has been ratified by 131 Parties.

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