

## PRESS RELEASE

### UN Biodiversity Convention postpones in-person resumed sessions of its two subsidiary bodies and working group on post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- *Uncertainties posed by the Omicron variant and resulting travel measures and restrictions force postponement of physical meetings of resumed sessions for SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3, scheduled to be held in Geneva in January 2022*
- *Meetings to be rescheduled for later in 2022, with dates under discussion*
- *Meetings critical for developing robust and effective post-2020 framework essential for human well-being, sustainable development and the future of all life on Earth.*

**2 December 2021** – Due to the uncertainties posed by the recent emergence of the Omicron variant, and the resulting travel measures and restrictions imposed in certain countries, the resumed sessions of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) scientific and implementation bodies, as well as the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-3) have been postponed.

“The recent emergence of the Omicron variant has highlighted that we live in a challenging time,” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary. “I am confident that in due course, with resilience and determination, when it is safe to meet in-person again, we will hold these meetings and advance on our journey to Kunming and the successful adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.”

Originally scheduled for Geneva, Switzerland from 12-28 January 2022, the physical meetings of the resumed sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24), the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) and WG2020-3 will be held at a later date in 2022. The Secretariat is exploring options for dates in March and will provide further information in due course.

The CBD Secretariat, in consultation with the Government of Switzerland, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP Bureau), SBSTTA and SBI Chairs and the post-2020 Working Group Co-Chairs, determined that in light of the Omicron variant, recently declared a Variant of Concern by the World Health Organization, it would be impossible to hold the resumed sessions of the meetings in-person on the planned dates.

Every effort will be made by the CBD Secretariat to ensure that the meetings reconvene as soon as feasible, at a time when the situation can allow large numbers of people to gather safely in a physical setting.

The Secretariat will continue to monitor further developments, and issue updates on any changes and adjustments that may become necessary.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS



SBSTTA-24, SBI-3, WG2020-3 meeting documents: [www.cbd.int/conferences/geneva-2022](http://www.cbd.int/conferences/geneva-2022)

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) on its third meeting (Part I): [www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-03/documents](http://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-03/documents)

Draft One of post-2020 global biodiversity framework: [www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework](http://www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework)

WG2020 Co-Chairs, with support from the CBD Secretariat, have prepared 25 one-pagers as an information supplement to the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: [www.cbd.int/article/first-draft-global-biodiversity-framework-one-pagers](http://www.cbd.int/article/first-draft-global-biodiversity-framework-one-pagers)

UN Biodiversity Conference – Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity): [www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15](http://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](http://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](http://www.cbd.int/meetings/NP-MOP-04)

**About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** 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, women, NGOs, sub-national actors 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 132 Parties.

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