



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### Subsidiary Body on Implementation

#### Sixth meeting

Rome, 16–19 February 2026

Agenda item 10

#### Administrative and budgetary matters: functional review of the Secretariat

### Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 19 February 2026

#### 6/9. Functional review of the Secretariat

##### *The Subsidiary Body on Implementation*

1. *Takes note* of the executive summary of the report on the external in-depth functional review of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>1</sup> prepared by an external consulting team, as contained in annex I to document [CBD/SBI/6/10](#), including the recommendations for short-, medium- and long-term actions by the Secretariat;

2. *Notes* the ongoing consultations on those recommendations within the Secretariat and with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing follow-up actions of the Executive Secretary that align with the core functions of the Secretariat, in particular the servicing of meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols, and the strategic priorities determined by the Conference of the Parties, in particular the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>2</sup> namely:

(a) Initiating the implementation of budget-neutral actions that enhance operational efficiency, including an updated organizational structure;

(b) Undertaking the updating or development of job descriptions, including classification, of existing and additional posts, respectively, required to implement a structural and strategic alignment with the core functions and strategic priorities of the Secretariat;

(c) Undertaking, on the basis of the updated functions and job descriptions, an analysis of the associated staffing and cost implications of the long-term structural and strategic alignment;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To transmit the executive summary of the report on the external in-depth functional review of the Secretariat to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting and to submit for consideration at the same meeting a progress report on the activities listed in paragraph 3 above and any additional activities related to the implementation of the functional review, together with

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>2</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.

proposals and a rationale for adjustments in existing post classification and the classification of additional posts, as well as changes that have budgetary implications;

(b) To convene information sessions in advance of the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to briefing Parties on the actions listed in paragraph 3 above, including on the budgetary implications of the actions proposed in the functional review;

5. *Recommends* that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the executive summary of the report on the external in-depth functional review of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>3</sup> as contained in annex I to document [CBD/SBI/6/10](#), and notes the additional actions requested by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in its recommendation 6/9 of 19 February 2026;

2. *Notes* the outcome of the functional review, [and welcomes the updated structure of the Secretariat,] which should lead to enhanced synergies and efficiencies within the Secretariat;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the follow-up actions taken by the Executive Secretary,<sup>4</sup> namely:

[(a) The initiation of the implementation of short- and medium-term actions proposed in the functional review, including an updated organizational structure;]

[(b) The updated or developed job descriptions, including classification, of existing and additional posts, respectively, required to implement a structural and strategic alignment with the core functions and strategic priorities of the Secretariat;]

[(c) The analysis of the associated staffing and cost implications of the long-term structural and strategic alignment;]

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to implement the ongoing and remaining actions that: (i) align with the core functions of the Secretariat, in particular the servicing of meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols, and the strategic priorities determined by the Conference of the Parties; (ii) enhance operational efficiency; and (iii) align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>5</sup> as recommended in the functional review, in line with the Secretariat staffing requirements adopted in the core budgets of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2027–2028;

(b) To ensure the implementation of recommendations of the functional review that are in line with the core functions of the Secretariat, as established in Article 24 of the Convention, Article 31 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety<sup>6</sup> and Article 28 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;<sup>7</sup>

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to keep the Parties informed through the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, in a transparent manner, of progress in implementing the ongoing and remaining actions recommended in the functional review;

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>4</sup> See CBD/COP/17/xx.

<sup>5</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

6. *Also recommends* that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, at its twelfth meeting, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, at its sixth meeting, take note of the executive summary of the report on the external in-depth functional review of the Secretariat and note the additional actions requested by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the present recommendation.

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