



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General

Date

English only

**Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific,  
Technical and Technological Advice**  
Teleconference, 14 May 2026

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held via teleconference on 14 May 2026**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) met on 14 May 2026 via Microsoft Teams teleconference. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon), Chair; Mr. Dickson Chitupa (Zimbabwe); Mr. Karl Fellenius (Marshall Islands); Ms. Ruliyana Susanti (Indonesia); Mr. Karen Khachatryan (Armenia); Mr. Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic); Ms. Kishma Primus-Ormond (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Paulina Stowhas Salinas (Chile); Ms. Anna Laura Mello Villamarin (Uruguay); Mr. Niklaus Wagner (Switzerland); and Ms. Sanne Kruid (Netherlands). Apologies were received from Mr. Mostafa Madbouhi (Morocco).

2. Also in attendance were Ms. Sakhile Silitshena, Head, Science Society and Sustainable Futures Division (SBSTTA Secretary); Mr. Olivier Rukundo, Head, Peoples and Biodiversity Unit; Ms. Jillian Campbell (Senior Programme Management Officer); Mr. Joseph Appiott, Programme Management Officer (marine and coastal biodiversity); Ms. Monica Kobayashi, Programme Management Officer (inland waters and agricultural biodiversity); Mr. Kieran Noonan Mooney, Programme Management Officer; Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Austein McLoughlin, Programme Management Officer; Ms. Regina Kipper, Programme Assistant; Mr. Tristan Tyrrell, Programme Management Officer (Biodiversity and Climate Change and Drylands); Ms. Jacqueline Grekin, Programme Assistant; and Ms. Myriam Samya, Staff Assistant, of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **II. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

3. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. (Eastern Time) on Thursday, 14 May 2026, by the Chair, Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa. Opening statements were delivered by the Chair and by Ms. Sakhile Silitshena, Secretary of SBSTTA.

4. In her opening remarks, Ms. Silitshena, speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary, noted that preparations for SBSTTA-28 were progressing well. She highlighted that the Secretariat was working to ensure the timely publication of documents and that logistical preparations for the meeting were advancing smoothly. She further emphasized the importance of close collaboration between the SBSTTA Bureau and the COP Bureau to support more effective and efficient meetings and outcomes.

5. In his opening remarks, the Chair of SBSTTA, Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa, welcomed Bureau members and thanked them for their continued engagement and dedication to the preparations for

SBSTTA-28. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the work is both technically robust and responsive to the expectations of Parties. He expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Secretariat in preparing documents, coordinating intersessional work and organizing the meeting. He noted that the agenda focuses on key areas requiring the Bureau's guidance, including the preparation of documents, organization of work and identification of contact group co-chairs. He highlighted the importance of these elements for the effectiveness of SBSTTA and concluded by expressing confidence that the meeting would contribute to alignment and readiness for a productive SBSTTA-28.

### **III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

6. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda.

7. A member of the SBSTTA Bureau requested the inclusion of an agenda item on updates regarding the global report and the technical dialogue on collective progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that these updates were already covered under agenda item 4 on preparations for SBSTTA-28. Following this clarification, the agenda was adopted.

### **IV. UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE: DOCUMENTS, INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ROLE OF SBSTTA BUREAU**

8. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat provided a global overview of preparations for SBSTTA-28.

9. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that all pre-session documents had been finalized, including the marine and coastal biodiversity document, and were under editing and translation, with publication expected before the deadline. Information documents were also on track for publication ahead of the meeting. It was noted that the documents on synthetic biology and the global report will be slightly delayed, as previously communicated.

10. On the global review of collective progress, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that work on the draft report was progressing on schedule and that a version would be made available for peer review on 1 June 2026. The Secretariat further informed the Bureau of preparations for the technical dialogue on the global review, tentatively scheduled for 7 to 9 September 2026 in China. Funding support was being secured. A notification for the meeting would be issued shortly with a strict four-week registration deadline applicable to all participants, including self-funded participants. The Bureau was informed that the dialogue was expected to take place at both technical and policy levels, potentially co-chaired by Ministers from China and Canada, and would include experts from the AHSTAG.

Preparations related to participation arrangements and communications are also underway, including arrangements representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and support for developing country participation.

### **V. IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF SBSTTA**

*Identification of potential contact group co-chairs:*

12. Mr. Wagner presented the outcome of the working group established to select a pool of potential contact group co-chair. The working group was composed of Mr. Wagner, Ms. Susanti and Mr. Chitupa. It met twice and the resulting proposals were reflected in the list circulated to Bureau

members. In developing the list, priority was given to regional nominations that were shared by Africa, WEOG, while for co-chairs from CEE and GRULAC, the Secretariat proposals were used as a basis. Available candidates, who are attending SBSTTA-28, were prioritized, with regard to expertise, regional and gender balance, and prior experience in co-chairing. It was also recalled that, in line with COP Bureau guidance, consistency of co-chairs across SBSTTA, SBI and COP for items 3(a) and 5, should be maintained where possible.

13. Bureau members took note of the proposals. GRULAC indicated general agreement with the list but noted that the co-chairs nominated from GRULAC are not able to serve as co-chair due to availability (small delegation and funding constraints). Concerns were also raised regarding the continuation of the bureau member from Armenia as co-chair for item 3(a), given the size and follow-up requirements of the item and potential conflicts of interest linked to COP Presidency roles.
14. Africa, Asia-Pacific, WEOG Bureau members confirmed availability of their nominated experts. The Bureau agreed to allow an additional week for GRULAC and CEE (items 3 (a), 6 and 8) to finalize outstanding nominations to ensure regional balance. Bureau members emphasized the importance of maintaining flexibility in regional allocations, suggesting two names from GRULAC and one from CEE, while avoiding overly rigid adherence to item-specific and prioritizing expertise and availability. It was further suggested that, while maintaining overall regional balance, the Secretariat could proceed with confirming and approving the remaining proposed names to initiate briefings and contact potential co-chairs without further delay, allowing preparatory work to advance in parallel with ongoing consultations.

*Modalities for the early submission of statements:*

11. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat informed the SBSTTA Bureau that the COP Bureau had discussed the summary of experiences related to the application of the modalities for the early submission of statements at SBI-6, including the findings of a survey conducted among meeting participants. A revised report is currently being prepared. The Secretariat further reported that, at the request of the SBSTTA and COP Bureaux, a joint meeting of the SBSTTA and COP Bureaux had been scheduled for 17 June 2026, during which this item would be further considered and the revised report presented.

12. The SBSTTA Bureau requested that the joint meeting be held earlier than 17 June to allow regions sufficient time to prepare for the use of the modalities.

13. The Secretariat indicated that it would consult further with the Secretary of the COP Bureau to explore the possibility of an earlier date. It was agreed that a written response would be provided by the end of the week, once the availability of the COP Bureau had been clarified.

*Organization of work and scenario note:*

14. In follow up to previous SBSTTA Bureau discussion on the organization of work, the Secretariat presented two planning scenarios for the structure of contact groups: one with parallel contact groups and one without. Under a parallel scenario, up to 20 contact groups could be convened. Under a non-parallel scenario, approximately 16 contact groups would be foreseen with some items potentially discussed in two-hour sessions. It was further noted that certain agenda items, in particular 3(a) and 5, should not be scheduled in parallel.

15. Bureau members expressed general support for increased use of contact groups and informal discussions, noting that this would help avoid over-reliance on plenary sessions. It was emphasized that planning should not only consider whether an agenda item requires a contact group, but also the anticipated number of contact group sessions per item.

16. The Secretariat noted that the organization of work (including planning for contact groups) and the scenario note could not be finalized until a decision on the modalities for the early submission of statements was taken.

17. In response to a question from a Bureau member, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that there was no update yet on financial support for developing country delegates.

*Preparation webinars:*

18. The Secretariat reported that two information webinars on SBSTTA-28 are planned. One session will cover agenda items 3(a), 3(b) and 4, while a second session will address the remaining agenda items.

19. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the exact dates for the webinars had not yet been confirmed, but that they were expected to take place in early to mid-June. A webinar on the modalities for the submission of early statements is also planned.

20. Bureau members supported the proposed approach and underscored the importance of ensuring adequate coordination between SBSTTA and SBI preparatory processes, including through targeted webinars and workshops.

## **VI. SCHEDULE OF SBSTTA BUREAU MEETINGS**

21. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat informed the Bureau of the proposed schedule of SBSTTA Bureau meetings.

22. The Secretariat proposed a follow-up Bureau meeting shortly after the joint Bureaux meeting to finalize the organization of work and scenario note, as well as an in-person preparatory meeting in Nairobi on 26 July 2026 ahead of SBSTTA-28.

## **VII. OTHER MATTERS**

23. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the CBD website is being updated, including the SBSTTA Bureau page, and proposed adding short biographies and photos of Bureau members, subject to their agreement. Bureau members welcomed the proposal.

24. It was suggested that regions may wish to consider early nomination of Bureau members to replace outgoing members whose term is expiring at SBSTTA-28, in order to facilitate smooth transitions and avoid delays during SBSTTA elections.

25. The action points arising from the meeting are set out in the annex to this report.

## **VIII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

26. The SBSTTA Bureau Chair thanked the SBSTTA Bureau members for their active engagement and closed the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

## **ANNEX: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

1. Bureau members from GRULAC and CEE to submit outstanding nominations for contact group co-chairs before 21 May.
  2. The SBSTTA Bureau to re-convene a working group to review the new potential contact group co-chairs and share the final list with SBSTTA Bureau by email.
  3. Bureau members to inform their regions of the upcoming technical dialogue on the global review, including the strict registration deadline and expected level of participation.
  4. The Secretariat to consult with the COP Bureau on the possibility of bringing forward the scheduled joint meeting and to report back to the SBSTTA Bureau on the outcome.
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