



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
Technical and Technological Advice**
Teleconference, 18 June 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held via teleconference on 18 June 2026

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) met on 18 June 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. Mostafa Madbouhi (Morocco); Mr. Karl Fellenius (Marshall Islands); Mr. Karen Khachatryan (Armenia); Mr. Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic); Ms. Kishma Primus-Ormond (Antigua and Barbuda); Ms. Paulina Stowhas Salinas (Chile); and Mr. Niklaus Wagner (Switzerland). Apologies were received from Ms. Ruliyana Susanti (Indonesia); Ms. Anna Laura Mello Villamarin (Uruguay); and Ms. Sanne Kruid (Netherlands).

2. Also in attendance were Ms. Sakhile Silitshena, Head, Science, Monitoring and Capacity Division (SBSTTA Secretary); Ms. Monica Kobayashi, Programme Management Officer (inland waters and agricultural biodiversity); Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Head, Biosafety Protocol Unit; Mr. Austein Mcloughlin, Programme Management Officer; Ms. Marianela Araya Quesada (Programme Management Officer for IAS and Health and Biodiversity); Mr. Q"apaj Conde (Programme Management Officer); Ms. Regina Kipper, Programme Assistant; Ms. Magdalena Garcia (Consultant); 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, 18 June 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 in their final stages. She highlighted that a few outstanding issues required the Bureau's consideration and guidance to enable the Secretariat to finalize all preparations for the meeting.

5. In his opening remarks, the Chair of SBSTTA welcomed Bureau members and thanked them for their continued engagement and support in the preparations for SBSTTA-28, now less than one month away. He noted that preparations were well advanced, with the Secretariat making substantial progress in documentation and organizational arrangements. He indicated that the meeting would

focus on the outcomes of the recent joint SBSTTA – COP Bureaux meeting, overall progress in preparations, and a number of practical matters requiring Bureau guidance, including contact group arrangements, modalities for early submission of statements, the scenario note, and preparatory webinars. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the Bureau's contributions and confidence that the discussions would support a successful SBSTTA-28.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting, and there being no objections, the agenda was adopted without changes.

IV. OUTCOMES OF THE JOINT MEETING WITH THE COP 17 BUREAU AND THE SBSTTA BUREAU.

7. Under this agenda item, the floor was opened for Bureau members to discuss the outcomes of the joint meeting of the SBSTTA and COP Bureaux, including matters of common interest in preparation for SBI-7 and SBSTTA-28 and arrangements aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of meetings.

8. A Bureau member noted that one of the main points raised concerned the modalities for the pilot arrangements, for which the final revised proposal was still being finalized. The Secretariat indicated that, taking into account comments made during the joint Bureaux meeting, a revised version would be circulated shortly to both Bureaux, with a deadline of 22 June for comments, and that, if on track, the modalities would be published by 25 June.

V. UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE: DOCUMENTATION, INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RELATED PROCESSES

9. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat provided an update on preparations for SBSTTA-28. The Bureau was informed that all pre-session documents had been made available in English by 12 June except for the documents on synthetic biology and the global report. Most documents had since been translated and published in all official languages, with the exception of those on sustainable wildlife management, the review of the programme of work on protected areas, and marine and coastal biodiversity. The Secretariat also indicated that most information documents were expected to be published during the current and following week to support Parties' preparations for the meeting.

10. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the review and selection of side events had been completed and that the final list was expected to be released the following week. An update was also provided on communication and outreach activities, including the development of a communications plan covering social media engagement and dissemination of information on the outcomes of SBSTTA-28.

11. Several Bureau members emphasized the importance of making the remaining documents available as soon as possible to enable Parties to prepare adequately for the meeting. In response, the Secretariat noted that efforts were ongoing to expedite publication. The Secretariat recalled that the timeline for the global report had been established through a COP decision and noted that publication of the synthetic biology document had been delayed due to procurement-related processes, but that the document was now undergoing editing and translation. The Secretariat also highlighted the challenges posed by the exceptionally high volume of documentation resulting from numerous concurrent meetings under the Convention and its Protocols, while recognizing the importance of making all documents available as early as possible.

VI. IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Confirmation of contact group co-chairs

12. Under this agenda item, it was recalled that the Bureau had reviewed a preliminary list of potential contact group co-chairs at its meeting on 14 March 2026 and agreed to allow additional time for regional consultations. The Bureau was informed that, following consultations with regions and nominees, an update was proposed to the list. Furthermore one previously identified nominee was no longer available to serve at SBSTTA-28, and a replacement was proposed by the Secretariat based on previous discussions by the group tasked by the Bureau.

13. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that an updated list would be circulated, reflecting the proposed replacement, who had been nominated by the relevant regional group and had confirmed their availability to serve. It noted that the proposed change would preserve the agreed balance in the composition of the contact group co-chairs.

Modalities for the early submission of statements

14. As discussed under agenda item 3 on the outcomes of the joint COP 17 Bureau and SBSTTA Bureau meeting, the Secretariat indicated that, taking into account comments from the joint meeting, a revised version would be circulated to both Bureaux with a deadline of 22 June for comments, and that the final modalities would be published by 25 June.

Organization of work and scenario note

15. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat presented the draft scenario note for SBSTTA-28, circulated the previous day, noting that it was based on the approach used for SBI-6 and SBSTTA-27. The Secretariat highlighted proposed speaking time limits: four minutes on behalf of regions, two minutes for individual Parties, two minutes for indigenous peoples and local communities and one minute for non-Parties and other observers, as time allows.

16. The Secretariat also indicated that all agenda items were proposed to be considered in contact groups, particularly for heavy and complex items, in order to reduce discussions in plenary time, while noting differing views on the use of parallel contact groups and related resource implications.

17. Adjustments to paragraph 16 were proposed to allow the Chair to request that microphones be turned off once speaking time is exceeded.

18. Bureau members provided comments on several paragraphs, including requests to clarify references to the *modus operandi*, avoid predetermining the establishment of contact groups for all agenda items, and adjust language on opening statements and conference room papers. The Bureau decided to wait until the opening of SBSTTA to decide which items will be assigned to contact groups.

19. The Secretariat indicated that, subject to agreement, the scenario note would be revised accordingly and recirculated for approval by email. The Secretariat also outlined possible arrangements for contact groups, including evening and morning sessions, and noted suggestions on ensuring flexibility and effective time management to facilitate a successful SBSTTA-28.

Preparatory webinars

20. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that notification [2026-049](#) had been issued, including information on the preparatory webinars for SBSTTA-28. A webinar covering agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8 was scheduled for 25 June 2026.

21. The Secretariat further indicated that presentations for agenda items 3(a), 3(b) and 4 would be provided by 3 July. Presenters were requested to structure their presentations around a brief

background, the methodology or approach followed, a summary of key findings and conclusions, and a summary of the draft SBSTTA recommendation, with the latter presented on a single slide.

22. The Bureau was also informed that an additional webinar would be organized on the modalities for the pilot arrangements.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

23. The Secretariat advised that an email would be circulated to Bureau members providing information on the change in the representation of the Federated States of Micronesia and welcoming the new Bureau member.

VIII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

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

ANNEX: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

1. The Secretariat to circulate the revised modalities for the pilot arrangements to both Bureaux, with comments due by 22 June and publication targeted for 25 June.
 2. The Secretariat to revise the draft scenario note in line with Bureau comments and recirculate it for approval by email.
 3. The Secretariat to circulate an email to Bureau members regarding the change in the representation of the Federated States of Micronesia in the SBSTTA Bureau.
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