



Discussing how the scientific mechanisms of the CBD work. *CBD mechanisms, processes and conduct of business*

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CO-OP4CD Central and Eastern European Countries Regional Training Session
Paris, Jardin des Plantes, 18 and 19 March 2024



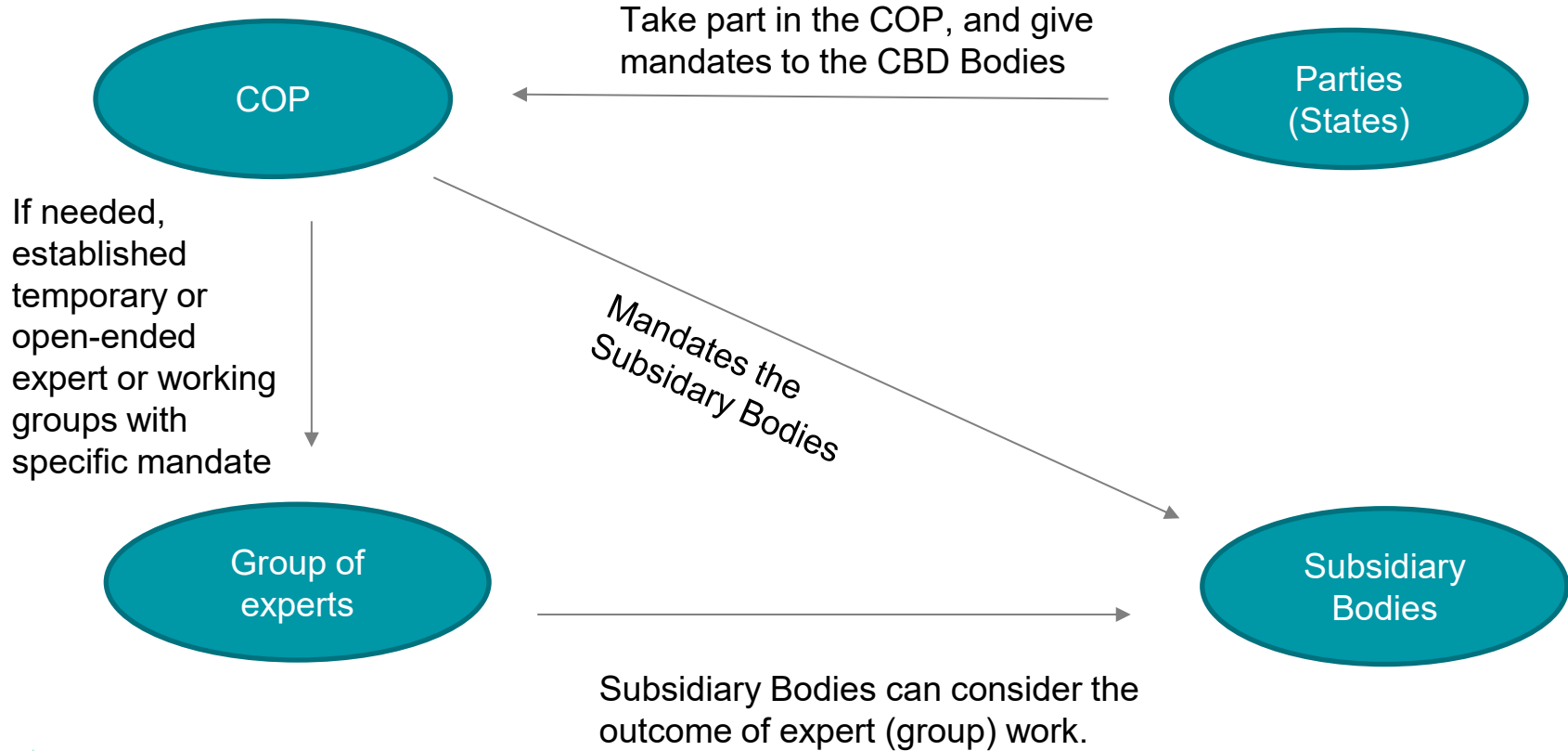
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I/ CBD Organization

I/ CBD organization



I/ CBD organization



Conference of Parties =

The **supreme governing body for the Convention**. It is the highest decision-making body. The COP is responsible for reviewing the implementation of the Convention and any related legal instruments. It has the power to make, within its mandate*, the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention

The biodiversity process revolves around the biennial meetings of the COP (or COP-MOPs). These sessions bring together Parties to the Convention and Parties to the Protocols, as well as observer States and organizations, the media, and the general public represented by various civil society and non-governmental organizations. The meetings have mostly taken place outside of the seat of the Secretariat hosted by different country Parties

[Secretariat Guidance](#)

I/ CBD organization



Subsidiary bodies =

The **Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**: is the only subsidiary body established under the Convention. It provides the COP and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely information and advice on scientific, technical and technological matters relating to the implementation of the Convention.

The **Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)**: was established by the decision of COP XII to replace the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. It is responsible, inter alia, to review relevant information on progress in the implementation of the Convention and assist the COP in preparing decisions on enhancing the implementation of the Convention, as appropriate.

The Ad Hoc Open-ended **Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions**: is established by a decision of the COP 4. It focuses on the implementation of Article 8(j) of the Convention on knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and related provisions.

[Secretariat Guidance](#)

I/ CBD organization



ARTICLE 25 – SBSTTA

A subsidiary body for the provision of scientific, technical and technological advice is hereby established to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of this Convention. This body shall be open to participation by all Parties **and shall be multidisciplinary**. It shall comprise **government representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise**. It shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on all aspects of its work

I/ CBD organization



ARTICLE 25 - SBSTTA

2. Under the authority of and in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Conference of the Parties, and upon its request, this body shall:

- (a) **Provide scientific and technical assessments** of the status of biological diversity;
- (b) Prepare scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of this Convention;
- (c) **Identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how** relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and advise on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring such technologies;
- (d) **Provide advice on scientific programmes and international cooperation in research and development** related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; and
- (e) **Respond to scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions** that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies may put to the body.

I/ CBD organization

Group of Experts

A limited number of ad hoc technical expert groups on specific priority issues on the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties may be established under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, as required, for a limited duration, to provide scientific and technical advice and assessments. The establishment of such ad hoc technical expert groups would be guided by the following elements:

- (a) The **ad hoc technical expert groups should draw on the existing knowledge and competence available** within, and liaise with as appropriate, international, regional and national organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the scientific community, as well as indigenous and local community organizations and the private sector, in fields relevant to this Convention;
- (b) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will select scientific and technical experts from the nominations submitted by Parties for each ad hoc technical expert group. The ad hoc technical expert groups shall be composed of no more than fifteen experts* nominated by Parties competent in the relevant field of expertise, with due regard to geographical representation, gender balance and to the special conditions of developing countries, in particular the least-developed and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, as well as a limited number of experts from relevant organizations, depending on the subject matter. The number of experts from organizations shall not exceed the number of experts nominated by Parties;
- (c) The number of ad hoc technical expert groups active each year will be limited to the minimum necessary. In the establishment of such groups, Parties shall take into consideration the availability of extra-budgetary resources as determined by the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) Ad hoc technical expert groups will be encouraged to use innovative means of communication and to minimize the need for face-to-face meetings;
- (e) Reports produced by the ad hoc technical expert groups should, as a general rule, be submitted for peer review;
- (f) All efforts will be made to provide adequate voluntary financial assistance for the participation of experts, in the ad hoc technical expert groups, from developing countries and countries with economies in transition Parties.

[SBSTTA Modus Operandi](#)

I/ CBD organization

Peer review process

Notification 2024-027

Peer review of the outcomes and methodology of the process of broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology

Dear Sir or Madam,

In [decision 15/31](#), the Conference of the Parties (COP) established a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent developments in synthetic biology. In the same decision, the COP also established a multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Synthetic Biology to support the process. The COP requested the Executive Secretary to prepare reports on the outcomes and operation of the horizon scanning process and to submit those reports for peer review to support the review of the effectiveness of the process by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its meeting prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The multidisciplinary AHTEG met in July 2023, October 2023 and January 2024 to develop a methodology and conduct one cycle of broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology. The outcomes of the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment process are available in annex I to [CBD/SBSTTA/26/4](#). The refined methodology updated in light of the experience gained is presented in annex IV of the same document.

Accordingly, I invite Parties and observers to participate in the peer review of the outcomes of the process and the refined methodology by submitting general comments on the information contained in annexes I and IV above, **before 12 April 2024**. These comments will be compiled and presented to the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to support the review of the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment.

Kindly send your comments to the Secretariat by e-mail to: secretariat@cbd.int, along with an official letter signed by the CBD national focal point or head of the organization, as appropriate, endorsing the submission.

Please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) David **Cooper**

Acting Executive Secretary

📅 2024-03-15

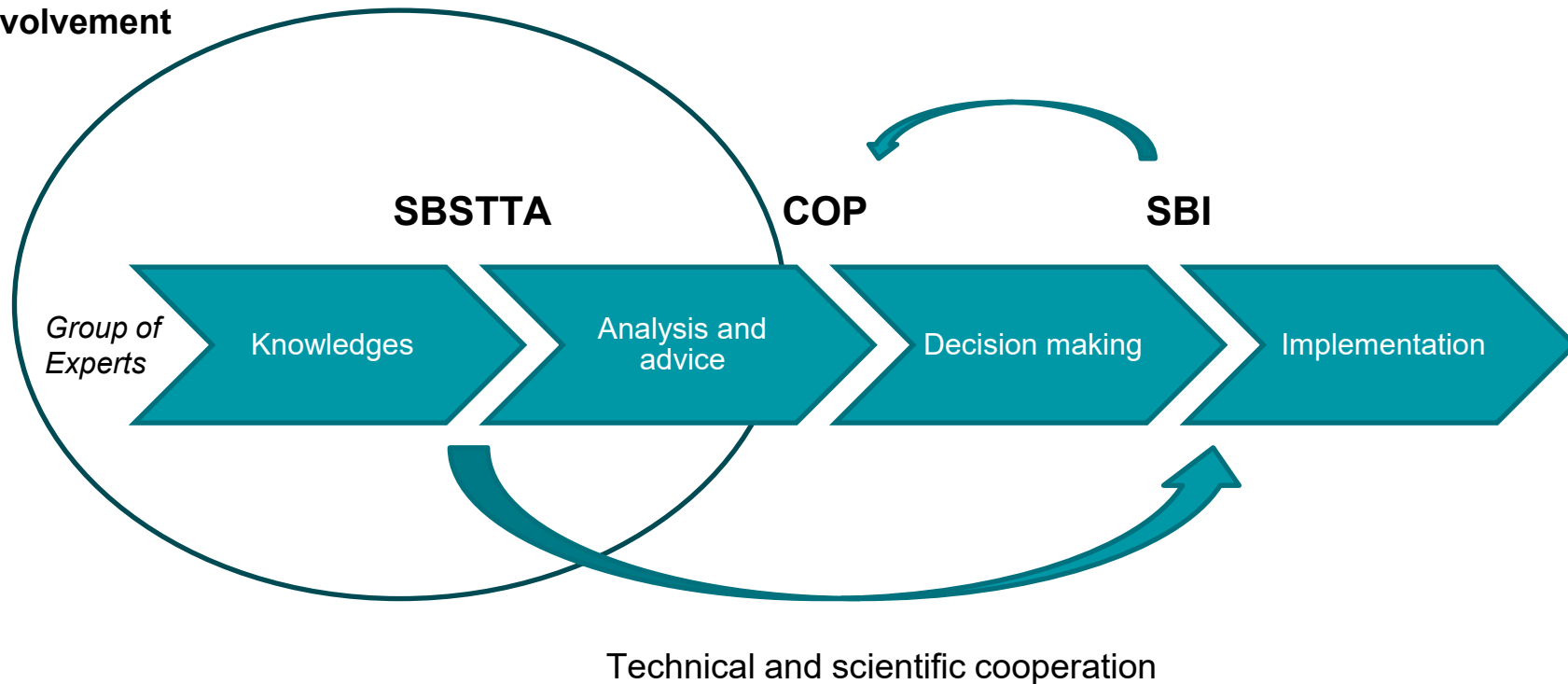
📅 Action required by 2024-04-12

Subject(s): *Synthetic Biology*

Full text: 📄 [English](#)

I/ CBD organization

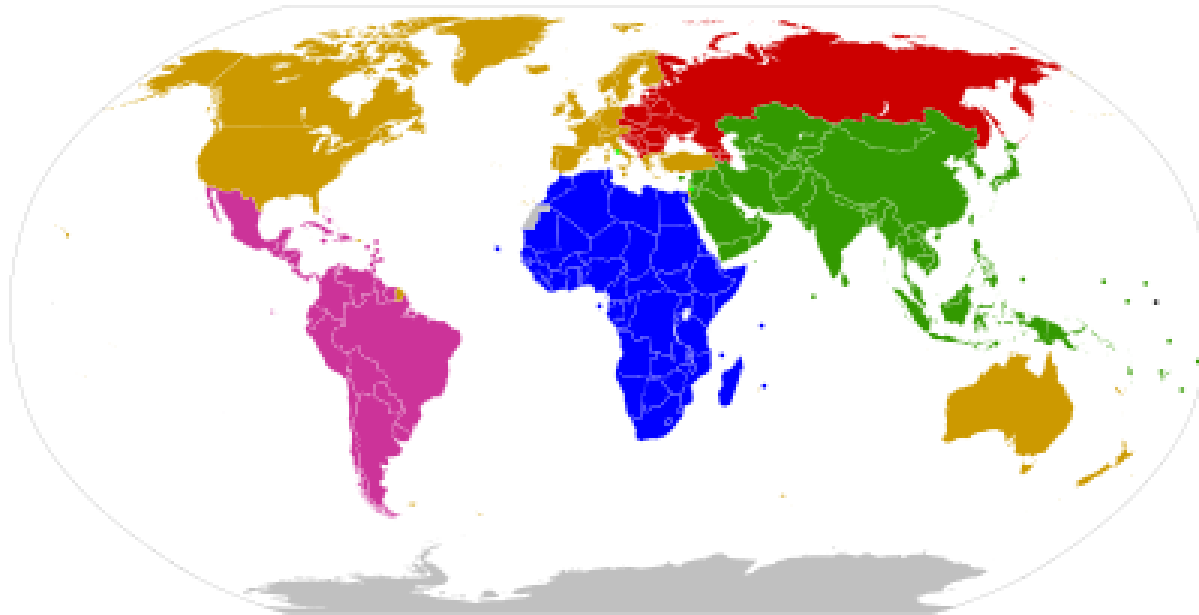
Scientists and Experts Involvement



II/ CBD main actors

II/ CBD's Main actors

States = PARTIES . Organized in « informal regional groups »



non-Parties:
Holy See and
USA

- Western European and Others Group
- Latin American and Caribbean Group
- African Group
- Eastern European Group
- Asia and the Pacific Group
- UN member not in any voting group (Kiribati)
- Observer states (Palestine, Holy See)
- Disputed territory

II/ CBD's Main actors



Non-States actors = OBSERVERS

- NGOs
- IGOs

organized in Major groups

- **Experts (University & Scientific communities)**
- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
- Companies (Business)
- Parlementarians
- Local Authorities
- Youth
- Women

III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business

III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business



1) CBD meeting terminology

- Plenary : The plenary meetings of the COP, and the subsidiary bodies **are the formal forums for opening of discussion and conclusion (SBs) or decision-making (COP) by Parties to the Convention and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols**. Plenary meetings are open to participation by all Parties, observers organizations, the media and other participants registered for the CBD sessions
- Working Groups : Working groups are set up when there are too many items on the agenda and two "plenary sessions" have to be held. It should be noted that no more than two working groups may be held in parallel, to enable smaller delegations to attend all the sessions.
- Contact Group : **Contacts groups are open-ended, and established to conduct negotiations on specific agenda items**, with the aim of achieving an agreed outcome. They are established by the COP, open-ended subsidiary bodies, or in-session working groups, based on a proposal by the President, Chair of the subsidiary body or the in-session working group, or a Party
- Friends of the Chair : **convened by presiding officers to advance negotiations on particularly difficult and politically sensitive issues**. A limited number of Parties are invited to participate in these closed meetings usually chaired by the presiding officer. Only invited delegates attend, no formal rules are applied, and the conduct of business is entirely at the discretion of the chair.

[Secretariat Guidance](#)

III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business



2) CBD meeting rules of procedure :



CHAIR

STATES



STATES



OBSERVERS



III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business



2) CBD meeting rules of procedure : PARTIES

1. **No one may speak at a session of the Conference of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President.** Subject to rules 32, 33, 34 and 36, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Conference of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

[RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY \(Annex to Decision I/1 as amended by Decision V/20, section I\)](#)

III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business

2) CBD meeting rules of procedure : PARTIES

Rule 39

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 of this rule, **each Party shall have one vote.**
2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (Annex to Decision I/1 as amended by Decision V/20, section I)

III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business



2) CBD meeting rules of procedure : PARTIES

Rule 40

[1. The Parties shall make **every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus**. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the decision [, except a decision under paragraph 1 or 2 of article 21 of the Convention] shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Convention, the financial rules referred to in paragraph 3 of article 23 of the Convention, or the present rules of procedure. [Decisions of the Parties under paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 21 of the Convention shall be taken by consensus.]]

2. **Decisions of the Conference of the Parties on matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority vote** of the Parties present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedural or substantive nature, the President shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting.

4. If on matters other than elections a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

5. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

[RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY \(Annex to Decision I/1 as amended by Decision V/20, section I\)](#)

III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business



2) CBD meeting rules of procedure : OBSERVERS

The participation of observer representatives in the proceedings of meetings is governed by rules 7 and 29 of the rules of procedure.

Observers have a number of ways to participate in the meeting by (a) making short and concise verbal statements upon the invitation of the chair or contact group convenor; (b) holding pre-scheduled side events; (c) holding pre-scheduled press conferences; (d) making available relevant information materials; and (e) setting-up by pre-arrangement displays such as exhibitions and posters.

Meetings designated by the chair or contact group convenor as CLOSED are not open to observers.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, "[guidelines on conduct expected of participants in cbd processes](#)"

III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business



2) CBD meeting rules of procedure : OBSERVERS

Rule 7

1. The Secretariat shall notify any body or agency, whether governmental or non-governmental, **qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity**, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented, of meetings of the Conference of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.
2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

[RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY \(Annex to Decision I/1 as amended by Decision V/20, section I\)](#)

III/ CBD Meetings conduct of business



3) Side Events

[SIDE EVENTS](#)[DASHBOARD](#)

Side-Events

The online side-event request system will be open for requests for the upcoming SBSTTA-25 meeting shortly.

SBSTTA-26

2024-05-13 to 2024-05-18

Request a Side-event

Deadline for this side-event registration is:
2024-03-21 04:59 UTC

SBI-04

2024-05-21 to 2024-05-29

Request a Side-event

Deadline for this side-event registration is:
2024-03-21 04:59 UTC

IV/ CBD Meeting document

IV/ CBD Meetings Document



1) Document structure

Negotiation document	Official documents (outputs)
<p>Non-paper : informal text proposal for negotiation purposes</p> <p>CRP = Conference Room Paper</p> <p>L = Limited distribution</p>	<p>DEC = Decision</p> <p>REC = Recommendation</p> <p>INF = Information</p>



ID of the document + date
The id gives information:
“CBD”: who
“COP”: in which meeting
“DEC”: type of document (here Ruling)
“15”: number of the meeting
“4”: number of the document

Meeting +
date +
number of
the item in
the agenda

Who is
speaking
through the
document

Preambular
part: Context
of the
Decision



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/COP/DEC/15/4
19 December 2022

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fifteenth meeting – Part II
Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December 2022
Agenda item 9A

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 14/34, in which it adopted the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and decided to establish an open-ended intersessional working group to support its preparation,

Noting the outcomes of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, of the regional and thematic consultations and workshops conducted based on decision 14/34 and of the intersessional work conducted on digital sequence information on genetic resources,¹

Noting also the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation,²

Expressing its gratitude to the following Governments and organizations for hosting these

Id of the decision

To conclude...

To conclude

As an expert :

You are susceptible to be involved in

- A group of expert on a specific topic or a peer review process
- In CBD meetings as an hand for the national delegations or as a observer
- In side events : associated with Parties or with observers



Thank you for your attention!

Pierre Spielewoy

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Annex

IV/ Link between SBSTTA and IPBES



UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/11 : The intention

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to consider, once the arrangements and modalities for the intergovernmental platform are decided, how the Convention could make full and effective use of the platform, seeking complementarity and avoiding duplication between the work of the Convention, in particular the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and the proposed platform, and to report thereon to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

IV/ Link between SBSTTA and IPBES

UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/13 : The collaboration

C. Collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is an independent body with its own functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements,

Also recognizing the potential contribution of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention, in achieving its objectives and implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, bearing in mind the need to avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts;

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in Panama City on 21 April 2012, and the outcomes of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for this Platform;

2. *Welcomes in particular* the provision for the Chair of the Subsidiary Body to participate as an observer in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in order to promote communication and synergies between the Subsidiary Body and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform, and *requests* the Chair of the Subsidiary Body, subject to the availability of resources, to participate as an observer in the Platform Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, to reinforce linkages between the Convention and the Platform;



IV/ Link between SBSTTA and IPBES

UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/13 : The collaboration

3. *Recalling* decision X/2, *considers* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a useful flexible framework for the delivery of the biodiversity agenda at all levels and *invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider how its work plan can contribute to their achievement;

4. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider ways in which the activities of the Platform could, as appropriate:

- (a) Build on, and contribute to, the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
- (b) Contribute to assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and
- (c) Provide information on policy options available to deliver the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

5. *Decides* that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its seventeenth meeting, should, as an interim activity on the relationship between the Convention and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform, provide additional explanatory information on requests referred to in paragraph 4 above and convey this information to IPBES;

6. *Decides* that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its eighteenth meeting, taking into account the further development of the procedures and work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, should develop recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting, as to how the Convention, and in particular the Subsidiary Body, should collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, by:



IV/ Link between SBSTTA and IPBES

UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/13 : The collaboration

(a) Identifying scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 that could be considered by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

(b) Considering relevant outputs from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and taking them into account and complement them with further work as needed in its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore options for formalizing collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.



IV/ Link between SBSTTA and IPBES



To summarize :

- 1/ CBD and IPBES are independent processes (IPBES also serves other MEAs);
- 2/ COP proposes subjects for assessment to IPBES plenary, who decides which assessments will be undertaken;
- 3/ SBSTTA considers outcomes of IPBES assessments (basically SPMs) through its permanent mandate and recommends to COP.