



# Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Fifteenth meeting (Part I)  
Kunming, China, 11-15 October 2021  
and 25 April to 8 May 2022

## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON ITS FIFTEENTH MEETING (PART I)

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## I. DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

### 15/1. Proposed interim budget for the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing for the year 2022

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision 14/37, in which it approved the budget for the biennium 2019-2020 and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare proposals for the budget for the biennium 2021-2022,

*Also recalling* its decision EM-2/1, in which it approved the extension of the budget for the biennium 2019-2020 and, on an exceptional basis, a core interim budget for 2021,

*Considering* the decision to hold the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in two parts, Part I from 11 to 15 October 2021 and Part II from 25 April to 8 May 2022, due to the constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic situation, and that the consideration and adoption of a regular or full budget has been planned to take place during Part II of the meeting,

*Noting*, therefore, the need to make arrangements to allow for the continued functioning of the organs of the Convention, including its Secretariat and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies,

*Taking note* of the proposal of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties that, on an exceptional basis, the Parties consider and approve an interim budget for 2022 through agreed modalities,

*Having considered* the note by the Executive Secretary,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the importance of early and easily understood information on financial and administrative matters, to enable Parties to benefit from and support an effective and efficient Secretariat,

*Also recalling* the need for inclusive decision-making at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of the Parties to its Protocols and, in particular, the provisions of paragraphs 35 to 44 of decision 14/37 on the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ) for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Processes,

*Recognizing* the exceptional nature of the circumstances arising from the pandemic and expressing solidarity with all Parties as they face the human and economic impacts of the ongoing pandemic,

1. *Approves*, on an exceptional and interim basis, a core programme budget for the Convention of 13,645,264 United States dollars for the year 2022, representing 74 per cent of the integrated interim budget of 18,439,546 United States dollars for the year 2022, for the purposes listed in tables 2a and 2b below;

2. *Confirms* the extension of parts of the 2019/2020 budget until after the end of the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Part II) and the core budget for 2021, as set out in its decision EM 2/1 and contained in table 1 below;

3. *Decides* to share all costs for secretariat services among the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on the existing ratio of 74:15:11 for the year 2022;

4. *Expresses* its appreciation to the host country, Canada, for its renewed support to the Secretariat, and *welcomes* the contribution of 2,092,229 Canadian dollars for the year 2022 from the host country and the Province of Quebec for the rental and associated costs of the Secretariat in Montreal, to be allocated on the existing ratio of 74:15:11 and to offset contributions from the Parties to the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol, respectively, for the year 2022;

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<sup>1</sup> CBD/COP/15/3.

5. *Adopts* the scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for 2022, in accordance with the current scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, as contained in table 4 of the present decision, noting that a scale of assessments for the triennium 2022-2024 is expected to be approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2021 and that the new scale of assessments will be applied, when released, to calculate the assessed contributions for 2022;

6. *Also adopts* the staffing table (table 3) of the Secretariat for the year 2022, to be used for costing purposes to set the overall budget;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide information relevant to a review of the post of Deputy Executive Secretary, for the Conference of the Parties at the second part of its fifteenth meeting, for consideration in the context of the overall staffing needs of the Secretariat;

8. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to upgrade to the P-4 level the position of Special Assistant in the Office of the Executive Secretary, in accordance with all relevant United Nations rules and regulations, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to provide the Conference of the Parties, at the second part of its fifteenth meeting, with information related to the legal basis, including the possible legal implications relating to the reclassification;

9. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into commitments up to the level of the approved budget, drawing on available cash resources, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income, in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations Environment Programme, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the details and rationale of any budget reallocations in line with paragraph 11 below;

10. *Notes* that the resumed sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, will be held in January 2022, and, recognizing that all efforts will be made by Parties and others to complete outstanding work, *decides*, on an exceptional basis and as appropriate, to seek, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, additional voluntary contributions to facilitate any additional focused and targeted work necessary to ensure the successful finalization and adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to transfer resources among the programmes between each of the main appropriation lines set out in table 2b below up to an aggregate of 15 per cent of the total programme budget, provided that a further limitation of up to a maximum of 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply;

12. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core programme budgets (BY, BG and BB) are due on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted and to pay them promptly, and *requests* that Parties be notified of the amount of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which the contributions are due;

13. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the core budgets (BY, BG and BB trust funds) for 2020 and prior years, including Parties that have never paid their contributions, and *also notes* that, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards adopted by the United Nations,<sup>2</sup> an amount estimated at \$582,370 for the Convention, outstanding at the end of 2020, must be deducted from the fund balance and therefore cannot be used for the benefit of all the Parties of the Convention;

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<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 60/283, sect. IV.

14. *Recalls*, in this context, paragraph 27 of decision 14/37 and *requests* the Executive Secretary, without further delay, to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in her capacity as Trustee, to communicate to the relevant Parties information on arrears in the contributions, using, as appropriate, available diplomatic channels;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, to continue to monitor the availability of voluntary contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ) and, considering the need to address the specific challenges faced by developing countries related to the COVID-19 pandemic, to seek enhanced contributions of external funds to the BZ Trust Fund, with a view to enabling the full and effective participation of developing country Parties as well as countries with economies in transition in the resumed sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the third meeting of Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and Part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, continuing to accord first priority to funding for least developed countries and small island developing States;

16. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in submitting the report requested in paragraph 37 of decision 14/37, to pay attention to the effect of the current pandemic;

17. *Affirms* that this decision is without prejudice to further decisions to be taken by the Conference of the Parties at Part II of its fifteenth meeting, and, as a result, *requests* the Executive Secretary to update the core and voluntary budgets for 2022 for the Convention and its Protocols in order to allow for early and effective implementation of the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework, possibly drawing upon available reserves to cover additional core costs where appropriate;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare budget proposals for the period 2023-2024, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties regarding the dates of its sixteenth meeting;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare and submit an updated, detailed and integrated programme of work for the period 2023-2024, which sets out the objectives, tasks to be completed by the Secretariat, and results expected with regard to each budget item, for the Convention and its Protocols, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to its Protocols at their next meetings, and a corresponding programme budget following the format of the proposed programme budget for the United Nations Environment Programme, including the supplementary information statement, for the biennium, with three alternatives:

(a) Making an assessment of the required rate of growth for the programme budget (BY, BG and BB trust funds) which should not exceed a 4 per cent increase from the total 2019-2020 level minus the amount on budget line K on extraordinary meetings related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in nominal terms;

(b) Maintaining the programme budget (BY, BG and BB trust funds) at the total 2019-2020 level minus the amount on budget line K on extraordinary meetings related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in real terms;

(c) Maintaining the programme budget (BY, BG and BB trust funds) at the total 2019-2020 level minus the amount on budget line K on extraordinary meetings related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in nominal terms.

**Table 1**  
**Status of the 2019-2020 approved carry-over budget by object of expenditure**  
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Carry-over budget</i>	<i>Total expenditure (31-12-2021)</i>	<i>Reallocated to meetings in 2022</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Bureau meetings	165.00	0.00		165.00
Meetings	2,842.20	1,364.20		1,478.00
Expert meetings	150.00	0.00	100.00	50.00
Extraordinary meetings on post-2020	210.00	43.00	167.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal (I)</b>	<b>3,367.20</b>	<b>1,407.20</b>	<b>267.00</b>	<b>1,693.00</b>
<b>II. Programme support costs (13%)</b>	437.74	182.94	34.71	220.09
<b>Subtotal (I + II)</b>	<b>3,804.94</b>	<b>1,590.14</b>	<b>301.71</b>	<b>1,913.09</b>

**Table 2a**  
**Integrated interim budget for the trust funds of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols for 2022**  
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2022</i>
A. Staff costs	12,220.00
B. Travel on official business	275.00
C. Consultants/subcontractors	50.00
D. Public awareness material/communications	50.00
E. Temporary assistance/overtime	100.00
F. Training	5.00
G. Translation of CHM website/website projects	65.00
H. Meetings*	1,198.00
I. Rent and associated costs	1,481.22
J. General operating expenses	726.60
<b>Sub-total (I)</b>	<b>16,170.82</b>
<b>II. Programme support costs (13%)</b>	2,102.21
<b>Sub-total (I + II)</b>	<b>18,273.03</b>
<b>III. Working Capital Reserve</b>	166.51
<b>Grand Total (II + III)</b>	<b>18,439.54</b>
Convention share of the interim budget (74%)	13,645.26
Less: Contribution from host country	(1,238.60)
Less: Use of reserves from previous years	(777.00)
<b>Net total (amount to be shared by Parties)</b>	<b>11,629.66</b>

\* Meetings to be funded from the interim budget for 2022 in complement to the carry-over as per table 1 above:

1/ Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, tenth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and fourth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, held concurrently for 14 days.

2/ Resumed twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, for 17 days.

3/ It is expected that, at Part II of its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will consider the need for budget allocations for Bureau and expert meetings to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Parties, through the Bureau, will continue to monitor the extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and nothing in this decision should be understood as setting a precedent for or prejudging the format of future Bureau meetings or expert meetings.

**Table 2b**  
**Resource requirements by division from the integrated core budgets for the year 2022**  
*(Thousands of United States dollars)*

	2022
<b>I. Programmes:</b>	
Office of the Executive Secretary	2,788.50
ABS and Biosafety Protocols	2,336.50
Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division	3,617.50
Implementation Support Division	4,300.75
<b>II. Administration, Finance and Conference Services</b>	<b>3,127.57</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16,170.82</b>
Programme support costs	2,102.21
<b>III. Working capital reserve</b>	<b>166.51</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,439.54</b>
Convention share of the interim budget (74%)	13,645.26
Less: Contribution from host country	(1,238.60)
Less: Use of reserves from previous years	(777.00)
<b>Net total (amount to be shared by Parties)</b>	<b>11,629.66</b>

**Table 3**  
**Secretariat staffing requirements from the core budgets of the Convention and its Protocols for 2022**

Category and level	Approved 2022
<b>Professional and higher</b>	
ASG	1
D-1	3
P-5	10
P-4	13
P-3	13
P-2/1	9
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>General Service</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>

**Table 4**  
**Contributions to the Trust Fund for the Convention on the Biological Diversity for 2022**

	<i>Party</i>	<i>Scale of assessments 2019-2021</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 per cent<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Contributions as of 1 Jan 2022</i>
1	Afghanistan	0.007	0.009	1,018
2	Albania	0.008	0.010	1,163
3	Algeria	0.138	0.173	20,065
4	Andorra	0.005	0.006	727
5	Angola	0.010	0.010	1,163
6	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	291
7	Argentina	0.915	1.144	133,038
8	Armenia	0.007	0.009	1,018
9	Australia	2.210	2.763	321,327
10	Austria	0.677	0.846	98,434
11	Azerbaijan	0.049	0.061	7,124
12	Bahamas	0.018	0.023	2,617
13	Bahrain	0.050	0.063	7,270
14	Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	1,163
15	Barbados	0.007	0.009	1,018
16	Belarus	0.049	0.061	7,124
17	Belgium	0.821	1.026	119,371
18	Belize	0.001	0.001	145
19	Benin	0.003	0.004	436
20	Bhutan	0.001	0.001	145
21	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.016	0.020	2,326
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.015	1,745
23	Botswana	0.014	0.018	2,036
24	Brazil	2.948	3.686	428,630
25	Brunei Darussalam	0.025	0.031	3,635
26	Bulgaria	0.046	0.058	6,688
27	Burkina Faso	0.003	0.004	436
28	Burundi	0.001	0.001	145
29	Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	145
30	Cambodia	0.006	0.008	872
31	Cameroon	0.013	0.016	1,890
32	Canada	2.734	3.418	397,515
33	Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	145
34	Chad	0.004	0.005	582
35	Chile	0.407	0.509	59,177
36	China	12.005	15.009	1,745,490
37	Colombia	0.288	0.360	41,874
38	Comoros	0.001	0.001	145
39	Congo	0.006	0.008	872
40	Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	145
41	Costa Rica	0.062	0.078	9,015

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 5.

	<i>Party</i>	<i>Scale of assessments 2019-2021</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 per cent<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Contributions as of 1 Jan 2022</i>
42	Côte d'Ivoire	0.013	0.016	1,890
43	Croatia	0.077	0.096	11,196
44	Cuba	0.080	0.100	11,632
45	Cyprus	0.036	0.045	5,234
46	Czechia	0.311	0.389	45,218
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.006	0.008	872
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	1,163
49	Denmark	0.554	0.693	80,550
50	Djibouti	0.001	0.001	145
51	Dominica	0.001	0.001	145
52	Dominican Republic	0.053	0.066	7,706
53	Ecuador	0.080	0.100	11,632
54	Egypt	0.186	0.233	27,044
55	El Salvador	0.012	0.015	1,745
56	Equatorial Guinea	0.016	0.010	1,163
57	Eritrea	0.001	0.001	145
58	Estonia	0.039	0.049	5,670
59	Eswatini	0.002	0.003	291
60	Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	1,163
61	European Union		2.500	290,742
62	Fiji	0.003	0.004	436
63	Finland	0.421	0.526	61,212
64	France	4.427	5.535	643,672
65	Gabon	0.015	0.019	2,181
66	Gambia	0.001	0.001	145
67	Georgia	0.008	0.010	1,163
68	Germany	6.090	7.614	885,467
69	Ghana	0.015	0.019	2,181
70	Greece	0.366	0.458	53,215
71	Grenada	0.001	0.001	145
72	Guatemala	0.036	0.045	5,234
73	Guinea	0.003	0.004	436
74	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	145
75	Guyana	0.002	0.003	291
76	Haiti	0.003	0.004	436
77	Honduras	0.009	0.011	1,309
78	Hungary	0.206	0.258	29,952
79	Iceland	0.028	0.035	4,071
80	India	0.834	1.043	121,261
81	Indonesia	0.543	0.679	78,951
82	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.398	0.498	57,868
83	Iraq	0.129	0.161	18,756
84	Ireland	0.371	0.464	53,942
85	Israel	0.490	0.613	71,244
86	Italy	3.307	4.134	480,828



	<i>Party</i>	<i>Scale of assessments 2019-2021</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 per cent<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Contributions as of 1 Jan 2022</i>
87	Jamaica	0.008	0.010	1,163
88	Japan	8.564	10.707	1,245,179
89	Jordan	0.021	0.026	3,053
90	Kazakhstan	0.178	0.223	25,881
91	Kenya	0.024	0.030	3,490
92	Kiribati	0.001	0.001	145
93	Kuwait	0.252	0.315	36,640
94	Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.003	291
95	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.005	0.006	727
96	Latvia	0.047	0.059	6,834
97	Lebanon	0.047	0.059	6,834
98	Lesotho	0.001	0.001	145
99	Liberia	0.001	0.001	145
100	Libya	0.030	0.038	4,362
101	Liechtenstein	0.009	0.011	1,309
102	Lithuania	0.071	0.089	10,323
103	Luxembourg	0.067	0.084	9,742
104	Madagascar	0.004	0.005	582
105	Malawi	0.002	0.003	291
106	Malaysia	0.341	0.426	49,580
107	Maldives	0.004	0.005	582
108	Mali	0.004	0.005	582
109	Malta	0.017	0.021	2,472
110	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	145
111	Mauritania	0.002	0.003	291
112	Mauritius	0.011	0.014	1,599
113	Mexico	1.292	1.615	187,853
114	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	145
115	Monaco	0.011	0.014	1,599
116	Mongolia	0.005	0.006	727
117	Montenegro	0.004	0.005	582
118	Morocco	0.055	0.069	7,997
119	Mozambique	0.004	0.005	582
120	Myanmar	0.010	0.010	1,163
121	Namibia	0.009	0.011	1,309
122	Nauru	0.001	0.001	145
123	Nepal	0.007	0.009	1,018
124	Netherlands	1.356	1.695	197,158
125	New Zealand	0.291	0.364	42,311
126	Nicaragua	0.005	0.006	727
127	Niger	0.002	0.003	291
128	Nigeria	0.250	0.313	36,349
129	Niue	0.001	0.001	145
130	North Macedonia	0.007	0.009	1,018
131	Norway	0.754	0.943	109,629
132	Oman	0.115	0.144	16,721

	<i>Party</i>	<i>Scale of assessments 2019-2021</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 per cent<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Contributions as of 1 Jan 2022</i>
133	Pakistan	0.115	0.144	16,721
134	Palau	0.001	0.001	145
135	Panama	0.045	0.056	6,543
136	Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.013	1,454
137	Paraguay	0.016	0.020	2,326
138	Peru	0.152	0.190	22,100
139	Philippines	0.205	0.256	29,806
140	Poland	0.802	1.003	116,608
141	Portugal	0.350	0.438	50,889
142	Qatar	0.282	0.353	41,002
143	Republic of Korea	2.267	2.834	329,615
144	Republic of Moldova	0.003	0.004	436
145	Romania	0.198	0.248	28,789
146	Russian Federation	2.405	3.007	349,680
147	Rwanda	0.003	0.004	436
148	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	145
149	Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	145
150	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	145
151	Samoa	0.001	0.001	145
152	San Marino	0.002	0.003	291
153	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	145
154	Saudi Arabia	1.172	1.465	170,405
155	Senegal	0.007	0.009	1,018
156	Serbia	0.028	0.035	4,071
157	Seychelles	0.002	0.003	291
158	Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	145
159	Singapore	0.485	0.606	70,518
160	Slovakia	0.153	0.191	22,246
161	Slovenia	0.076	0.095	11,050
162	Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	145
163	Somalia	0.001	0.001	145
164	South Africa	0.272	0.340	39,548
165	South Sudan	0.006	0.008	872
166	Spain	2.146	2.683	312,022
167	Sri Lanka	0.044	0.055	6,397
168	State of Palestine	0.008	0.010	1,163
169	Sudan	0.010	0.010	1,163
170	Suriname	0.005	0.006	727
171	Sweden	0.906	1.133	131,730
172	Switzerland	1.151	1.439	167,352
173	Syrian Arab Republic	0.011	0.014	1,599
174	Tajikistan	0.004	0.005	582
175	Thailand	0.307	0.384	44,637
176	Timor-Leste	0.002	0.003	291
177	Togo	0.002	0.003	291
178	Tonga	0.001	0.001	145

	<i>Party</i>	<i>Scale of assessments 2019-2021</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 per cent<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Contributions as of 1 Jan 2022</i>
179	Trinidad and Tobago	0.040	0.050	5,816
180	Tunisia	0.025	0.031	3,635
181	Turkey	1.371	1.714	199,339
182	Turkmenistan	0.033	0.041	4,798
183	Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	145
184	Uganda	0.008	0.010	1,163
185	Ukraine	0.057	0.071	8,288
186	United Arab Emirates	0.616	0.770	89,565
187	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.567	5.710	664,028
188	United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	1,163
189	Uruguay	0.087	0.109	12,650
190	Uzbekistan	0.032	0.040	4,653
191	Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	145
192	Venezuela	0.728	0.910	105,849
193	Viet Nam	0.077	0.096	11,196
194	Yemen	0.010	0.010	1,163
195	Zambia	0.009	0.011	1,309
196	Zimbabwe	0.005	0.006	727
		<b>78.010</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>11,629,664</b>

## II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

### A. Background

1. Following the invitation of the Government of China and as decided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision [XIII/33](#), the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was scheduled to be held in Kunming, China, from 15 to 28 October 2020, concurrently with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. Owing to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, however, the meetings were postponed, initially until late May 2021 and then again as the pandemic persisted.

2. After extensive consultations and considering the challenges that the pandemic continued to pose for in-person meetings, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had agreed, at its meeting held on 14 July 2021, to the holding of these meetings in two parts: the first part (part I) would be held online from 11 to 15 October 2021, and the second part (part II) would be held in person in Kunming, China, from 25 April to 8 May 2022. Part I of the meeting was held online.

### B. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Governments:

Albania	Chad	Ghana
Algeria	Chile	Greece
Andorra	China	Grenada
Angola	Colombia	Guatemala
Antigua and Barbuda	Comoros	Guyana
Argentina	Congo	Haiti
Armenia	Costa Rica	Holy See
Australia	Croatia	Honduras
Austria	Cuba	Hungary
Azerbaijan	Cyprus	Iceland
Bahamas	Czechia	India
Bahrain	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Indonesia
Bangladesh	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Belarus	Denmark	Ireland
Belgium	Dominican Republic	Israel
Belize	Ecuador	Italy
Benin	Egypt	Jamaica
Bhutan	Equatorial Guinea	Japan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Eritrea	Jordan
Botswana	Estonia	Kenya
Brazil	Ethiopia	Kuwait
Brunei Darussalam	European Union	Latvia
Bulgaria	Fiji	Lebanon
Burkina Faso	Finland	Liberia
Burundi	France	Liechtenstein
Cabo Verde	Gabon	Lithuania
Cambodia	Georgia	Luxembourg
Cameroon	Germany	Madagascar
Canada		Malawi
Central African Republic		Malaysia

Maldives	Philippines	Switzerland
Malta	Poland	Tajikistan
Mauritius	Portugal	Thailand
Mexico	Republic of Korea	Togo
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Republic of Moldova	Tonga
Monaco	Romania	Trinidad and Tobago
Morocco	Russian Federation	Tunisia
Mozambique	Rwanda	Turkey
Myanmar	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Turkmenistan
Namibia	Saudi Arabia	Uganda
Nepal	Senegal	Ukraine
Netherlands	Serbia	United Arab Emirates
New Zealand	Seychelles	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Nicaragua	Singapore	Ireland
Niger	Slovenia	United Republic of Tanzania
Nigeria	South Africa	United States of America
North Macedonia	South Sudan	Uruguay
Norway	Spain	Viet Nam
Oman	Sri Lanka	Zambia
Pakistan	State of Palestine	Zimbabwe
Paraguay	Sudan	
Peru	Suriname	
	Sweden	

4. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended:

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, UNEP	Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
International Fund for Agricultural Development	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
International Maritime Organization	United Nations Development Programme
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	United Nations Environment Programme
	United Nations University
	World Health Organization

5. The following organizations were also represented as observers:

Access and Benefit Sharing Alliance	Anglican Consultative Council
Action for Ecology and People Emancipation (AEER)	Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
ActionAid International	Arabian Leopard Fund
Adelphi Research gemeinnützige GmbH	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
African Centre for Biodiversity	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation
African Indigenous Women Organization (Nairobi)	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
African Institute for Development Policy	Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad
African Union Development Agency-NEPAD	Association Des 3 Hérissons
African Wildlife Foundation	Aube Nouvelle pour la Femme et le Développement
Aichi Prefecture	Australian Conservation Foundation
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization	Avaaz
Andes Chinchasyo	BankTrack

Barnes Hill Community Development Organization  
Beijing Chaoyang District Yongxu Global Environmental Institute  
Beijing Entrepreneur Environmental Protection Foundation  
Beijing Fuqun Social Service Center  
Beijing Haidian Shanshui Conservation Center  
Beijing Institute of Finance and Sustainability  
Bioversity International  
BirdLife International  
Born Free Foundation  
Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development  
British Ecological Society  
Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)  
Caribbean Community Secretariat  
Center for Development Research (ZEF)  
China Association of Wild Plant Conservation  
China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation  
China Dialogue Trust  
China Green Carbon Foundation  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
ClientEarth  
Comité français de l'UICN  
Commonland  
Confederação Nacional da Indústria  
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace  
Conselho Empresarial Brasileiro para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável  
Conservation International  
Cooperativa Autogestionaria de Servicios Profesionales para la Solidaridad Social, R.L.  
Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security  
Cornell University  
CropLife International  
Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales  
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft - und Raumfahrt e.V. - German Aerospace Center  
DHI Water & Environment  
Duke Kunshan University  
Duke University  
Ecologistas en Acción  
EcoNexus  
ECOROPA  
Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation  
ETC Group  
European Bureau for Conservation and Development  
European Climate Foundation  
Forest Peoples Programme  
Forest Stewardship Council  
Forest Watch Indonesia  
Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action  
Fridtjof Nansen Institute  
Friends of the Earth Europe  
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales  
Fundación Gaia Amazonas  
Future Earth  
GenØk - Centre for Biosafety  
Georgetown University  
German Committee Future Earth  
Ghent University  
Global Biodiversity Information Facility  
Global Crop Diversity Trust  
Global Forest Coalition  
Global Forum on Human Settlements  
Global Industry Coalition  
Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime  
Global Youth Biodiversity Network  
Global Youth Online Union  
Govardhan Ecovillage  
Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration  
Green Anhui  
Greenpeace International  
Griffith University  
Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network  
Guangzhou Yuexiu Climate Environmental Protection Exchange Center  
Hanns Seidel Foundation/Stiftung-Korea Office  
Heinrich Böll Foundation  
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ  
ICCA Consortium  
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability  
Imperial College London  
Indigenous Information Network  
Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales  
Institute for Biodiversity Network  
Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development  
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture  
International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey  
International Center for Integrated Mountain Development

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers  
International Coral Reef Initiative  
International Council of Environmental Law  
International Environment Forum  
International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations  
International Fertilizer Association  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
International Grain Trade Coalition  
International Indian Treaty Council  
International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity  
International Institute for Environment and Development  
International Land Conservation Network  
International Network for Bamboo and Rattan  
International Network of Basin Organizations  
International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative  
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty  
International Seed Federation  
International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications  
International Studies Association  
International Tropical Timber Organization  
International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants  
International Union of Railways  
International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity  
International Whaling Commission  
IPIECA  
IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature  
Japan Citizens' Network for Sustainable Food and Agriculture (FA-Net Japan)  
Japan Civil Network for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity  
Japan Committee for IUCN  
Japan Environmental Lawyers for Future  
Japan Federation of Bar Associations  
Laotu Rural Ecological Culture Service Group in Yantian District, Shenzhen  
Latinoamérica Sustentable  
Les Eco Maires  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Macquarie University  
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Missionary Society of St. Columban  
Mount Holyoke College  
Nagoya University  
Nankai University  
National Geographic Society  
National Institute for Environmental Studies  
Nature Québec  
North Carolina State University  
New Wind Association  
Nordic Development Fund  
Norwegian University of Life Sciences  
On the EDGE Conservation  
Panthera  
Parabukas  
Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center  
Pondicherry India-China Friendship Association  
Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources  
Public Research and Regulation Initiative  
Rainforest Foundation Norway  
Rainforest Trust  
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands  
Ramsar Network Japan  
Red de Cooperación Amazónica  
Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad para América Latina y el Caribe  
Red Indígena de Turismo de México (RITA)  
Regions4 Sustainable Development  
Réseau des gestionnaires d'aires marines protégées de Méditerranée  
Resources Legacy Fund  
Round-Table on Sustainable Palm Oil Secretariat (RSPO)  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Rueda de Medicina y Asociados, A.C.  
Sasakawa Peace Foundation  
Scion Research  
Seascope Consultants Ltd.  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme  
Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative Union  
Sierra Club Canada Foundation  
Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections  
Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation - Nepal  
Society for Wildlife and Nature  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme  
South China Botanic Garden  
Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

Southern African Development Community Secretariat  
 Stockholm Resilience Centre  
 Sustainable Environment Food and Agriculture Initiative  
 Team SPOON  
 Tebtebba Foundation  
 Terra de Direitos  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 The Pew Charitable Trusts  
 Third World Network  
 Tinker Institute on International Law and Organizations  
 TRAFFIC International  
 Tree Aid  
 UCCLAN - University of Cambridge, Conservation Leadership Alumni Network  
 Union for the Mediterranean  
 University of Cambridge  
 University of Guelph  
 University of Sydney  
 University of Vienna  
 Vitae-Planeta Ltd.  
 Wellcome Sanger Institute  
 West African Economic and Monetary Union

Wetlands International - Japan  
 Wildlands Conservation Trust  
 Wildlife Conservation Society  
 Wildlife Justice Commission  
 Winrock International  
 Women Engage for a Common Future  
 World Agroforestry Centre  
 World Animal Protection  
 World Business Council for Sustainable Development  
 World Economic Forum  
 World Federation for Animals  
 World Organization for Animal Health /Organisation mondiale de la santé animale  
 World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies  
 World Tourism Cities Federation  
 WWF International  
 Yangtze River Delta Research Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Zhejiang  
 Yunnan University of Finance and Economics  
 Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia  
 Zoological Society of London

**C. Organizational matters**

**Item 1. Opening of the meeting**

6. The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was opened at 3.15 p.m.<sup>4</sup> on 11 October 2021 by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt and President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, who delivered opening remarks. In her remarks, the outgoing President reviewed the main outcomes of the fourteenth meeting, as well as the subsequent work of the Convention carried out during the Egyptian Presidency. She noted the hardship and delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had led to the need to conduct many meetings online. She thanked all who had worked to ensure that the processes of the Convention could continue and said that she looked forward to the development of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

7. Ms. Fouad's intervention followed a video presentation prepared by the Government of China on the increase and migration of the Asian elephant population in Yunnan Province and a musical performance by two groups of indigenous artists from Yunnan.

8. The transfer of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties was made by the Ambassador of Egypt to the People's Republic of China, Mr. Mohammed El Badry, on behalf of Ms. Yasmine Fouad. Mr. Runqiu Huang, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, was elected by the Conference of the Parties by acclamation.

9. Opening statements were then made by Mr. Zheng Han, Vice-Premier of the Council of State of China; Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, on behalf of Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (via video); Mr. Chengfa Ruan, Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province; and Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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<sup>4</sup> All times shown in the present report are in China Standard Time (UTC+8).



10. Mr. Han welcomed participants to the Kunming conference, characterizing it as a historic opportunity to strengthen biodiversity protection and advance global environment governance. He outlined the efforts of China to protect biodiversity and its achievements in that regard, both past and future, national and international. Saying that China, as the host country and President of the Conference of the Parties, hoped to step up cooperation and exchange, reach common ground, produce action frameworks that were comprehensive, balanced, strong and operable and take global biodiversity governance to a new level, he called for increased ambition and resources to that end, along with accelerated development transformation and reform, notably in the infrastructure and energy sectors, and a coordinated approach to meeting the global environmental challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and food insecurity.

11. Ms. Anderson called for ambition and action to ensure progress in making peace with nature, which the Secretary-General had called the defining task of the twenty-first century. The overall record of action, ambition and impact of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was inadequate, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was an opportunity to chart a new course. Clear and tangible action was needed, and the momentum on the biodiversity agenda at the current conference would send a message to Governments at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference of a common, global purpose of delivering for people and the planet.

12. Mr. Ruan welcomed the participants on behalf of the government and people of Yunnan Province and congratulated the Parties on the successful convening of the conference, which was a milestone in the process of finding a way to conserve the Earth together and launching a new chapter for biodiversity conservation. He went on to describe Yunnan, the most biodiverse province in China, and its efforts in recent years to be a pioneer in biodiversity conservation. The local government had worked to promote green development and a circular economy, as well as renewable energies, achieving a notable 80 per cent level of green power generation. The concept of an ecological civilization had a bearing on the future of all human beings, who shared the common dream of a green home on Earth. He closed his remarks by wishing all participants fruitful discussions and a successful meeting.

13. Ms. Mrema noted the insufficient progress made in the preceding decade but welcomed the increasing engagement of non-State actors, which indicated a deep shift in awareness of the interconnected biodiversity, climate and health emergencies facing the world. The bold commitments made in the preceding few years in response to the urgent need for action had now to be translated into policies, actions and results. Participants were urged to work together to shape and deliver a bold, inclusive and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that catalysed the changes needed to reach the 2030 targets and 2050 vision and build an ecological civilization and a shared future for all life on Earth.

14. General statements were made by representatives of Argentina (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African Group), Georgia (on behalf of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe), Kuwait (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific region), New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) and Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

15. A statement was also made by the representative of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

16. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity (IIFB), the Hani People of Yunnan, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) (also on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 and the government of Quebec), the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (coordinated by the Aichi Prefecture), the European Committee of the Regions

and the Edinburgh Process partners), and the True Nature Conservation Association (also on behalf of Youth of China).<sup>5</sup>

## **Item 2. Organizational matters**

### **Adoption of the agenda**

17. At the first plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau (CBD/COP/15/1/Rev.1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Pending issues.
5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.
7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds.
8. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
9. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
10. Enhancing integration with respect to provisions related to Article 8(j) and related provisions.
11. Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
12. Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism.
13. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and communication.
14. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.
15. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.
16. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.
17. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.
18. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.
19. Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
20. Marine and coastal biodiversity.
21. Invasive alien species.
22. Sustainable wildlife management.
23. Biodiversity and climate change.
24. Biodiversity and agriculture.
25. Biodiversity and health.
26. Nature and culture.
27. Synthetic biology.
28. Other matters.
29. Adoption of the report.
30. Closure of the meeting.

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<sup>5</sup> Statements made by representatives, where provided to the Secretariat, can be found at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cop-15/documents>, as received from the Party or observer concerned.

### **Organization of work**

18. At the first plenary session of the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties agreed to address items 1 to 4, 6, 7 and 28 to 30 during part I of the meeting, according to the schedule set out in annex I to the proposed organization of work (CBD/COP/15/1/Add.2). It was understood that all those items would be addressed in plenary and that most would need to be further considered during part II of the meeting, at which time agenda items 5 and 8 to 27 would also be addressed and the Conference of the Parties might decide to establish working groups to support its work, in accordance with established practice.

19. During consideration of the organization of work, the representative of Japan made a statement and later asked that it be reflected in the report on the meeting. Japan wished to learn about the preparations for the high-level segment to be held on 12 and 13 October 2021 and, in particular, desired further information from the Government of China on the ongoing coordination for the draft Kunming declaration. His delegation had conveyed comments and questions regarding procedural and substantive issues on both the “zero draft” and “final draft”, but still had reservations about the draft declaration. The Japanese delegation wished to know: (a) whether a more open process involving all Parties, observers and stakeholders was envisaged, in a virtual meeting open to all; (b) whether, and how, the viewpoints of major groups, including indigenous peoples and local communities and women, would be taken into account through the coordination process; (c) whether, and how, consensus could be achieved through the ongoing largely bilateral coordination; and (d) whether the draft declaration would be a negotiated decision or otherwise legally binding.

20. The President of the Conference of the Parties said that, as the questions related to the high-level segment, he would respond during the high-level segment.

### **Parallel events**

21. Two related events, the Ecological Civilization Forum and the Non-Governmental Organizations’ Action Forum, were held in connection with part I of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. More information on the forums can be found in the annex to the present report.

### **Election of officers**

#### *Election of the President*

22. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, at the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties elected, by acclamation, Mr. Runqiu Huang, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, as President of its fifteenth meeting.

#### *Election of officers other than the President*

23. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, 10 Vice-Presidents had been elected by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting to serve until the closure of the fifteenth meeting. Subsequently, two members of the Bureau had been replaced by the Parties concerned. The following representatives served as Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana)  
Mr. Melesse Maryo (Ethiopia)  
Mr. Vinod Mathur (India) (replacing Ms. Sujata Arora)  
Ms. Leina El-Awadhi (Kuwait)  
Ms. Teona Karchava (Georgia)  
Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania)  
Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo (Costa Rica) (replacing Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez)  
Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda)  
Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria)  
Ms. Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand)

24. It was agreed that the election of officers under agenda item 2 would be further considered at part II of the meeting. Regional groups were invited to submit their nominations, preferably prior to part II of the meeting to enable newly elected members of the Bureau to attend, as observers, the Bureau meetings to be held during part II of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ensure a smooth transition between outgoing and incoming Bureau members.

25. As some of the work mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting would continue until the closure of part II of the fifteenth meeting, Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt) was invited to remain a member of the Bureau, *ex officio*, as the representative of the Presidency of the fourteenth meeting.

26. At the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties agreed to elect Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania) as Rapporteur. Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana) was elected as representative of the Bureau for the review of credentials.

*Election of officers of subsidiary bodies and other meetings*

27. At the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties decided to postpone the elections of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation until the end of part II of the meeting. The Conference of the Parties also decided to maintain the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in office until the second part of the meeting.

**Item 3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

28. Agenda item 3 was considered at the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau was to examine and report on the credentials of delegations and, accordingly, the President informed the Conference of the Parties that the Bureau had designated Mr. Eric Okoree (Ghana), a Vice-President of the Bureau, to examine and report on credentials.

29. At the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021, Mr. Okoree informed the Conference of the Parties that 154 Parties were registered as attending the meeting. The Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of those Parties and had found that the credentials of 107 delegations were in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while the credentials of 47 delegations did not fully comply with rule 18 and or had not yet been presented. As the Bureau understood the extraordinary situation facing some delegations, it was allowing representatives who had not yet submitted their credentials 30 days following the closure of meeting, or until 15 November 2021, to do so, and had requested the Executive Secretary to follow up on the matter.

**Item 4. Pending issues**

30. Agenda item 4 was considered at the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021. The only pending issue before the Conference of the Parties related to paragraph 1 of rule 40 of the rules of procedure and paragraphs 4 and 16 of the financial rules, which remained bracketed due to the lack of consensus among Parties concerning the majority required for decision-making on matters of substance.

31. The Conference of the Parties decided to defer discussion of the issue to its sixteenth meeting.

**Item 6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings**

32. Agenda item 6 was considered at the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021. In considering the item, the Conference of the Parties had before it the reports of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on its eleventh meeting (CBD/WG8J/11/7), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-third meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/23/9) and part I of its twenty-fourth meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/24/11), the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on part I of its third

meeting (CBD/SBI/3/20), and the Open-ended Working Group on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on its first, second and part I of its third meetings (CBD/WG2020/1/5, CBD/WG2020/2/4 and CBD/WG2020/3/4).

33. The Conference of the Parties then heard oral reports from the Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on the work done since the previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including an explanation of the various means used to circumvent the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

34. The Conference of the Parties took note of the reports on the intersessional meetings of subsidiary bodies and decided to consider the recommendations contained in the reports under the relevant agenda items at part II of the meeting.

#### **Item 7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds**

35. Agenda item 7 was taken up at the opening plenary session of part I the meeting, on 11 October 2021.

36. In considering the item, the Conference of the Parties had before it an interim report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention, including the budget for the trust funds of the Convention (CBD/COP/15/3).

37. The Conference of the Parties decided to establish a budget contact group with a mandate to review the matter and prepare a draft budget for the programme of work for 2022, for the consideration of the Parties. The contact group was chaired by Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada), was open to all Parties and met informally at the invitation of the chair, with meetings advertised in advance in the daily calendar of meetings.

38. At the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties took up draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.2, on the interim budget for the integrated programme of work of the Secretariat, presented by the chair of the budget contact group.

39. The Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.2 as decision 15/1.

40. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United Kingdom announced a pledge of £200,000 to the Special Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **Item 28. Other matters**

41. Agenda item 28 was taken up at the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021.

42. During the consideration of the item on other matters, the representative of Japan made a statement and asked that it be reflected in the report on the meeting. His delegation, which had taken the floor during the opening session of the meeting to seek clarification on the drafting process and nature of the draft Kunming declaration, acknowledged the adoption of the “Kunming Declaration” (CBD/COP/15/5/Add.1) during the high-level segment. As indicated by the President of the Conference of the Parties during the closing plenary of the high-level segment, the declaration was intended to demonstrate determination to build political momentum and was neither a negotiated decision of the Conference of the Parties nor legally binding, which the Japanese delegation noted with appreciation; however, as its comments and suggested modification had not been fully taken into account despite efforts made by the host, the Japanese delegation wished to add that the text in the declaration did not establish a precedent for ongoing and future intergovernmental discussions in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations or other intergovernmental forums.

**Item 29. Adoption of the report**

43. On the basis of the draft report presented by the Rapporteur (CBD/COP/15/Part-I/L.1), the present report was adopted at the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021, on the understanding that it would be completed to reflect the full proceedings of the current meeting and that the full report would be considered and adopted at part II of the meeting.

**Item 30. Closure of the meeting**

44. At the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021, the Conference of the Parties decided to suspend its fifteenth meeting and resume it from 25 April to 8 May 2022, in Kunming, China.

45. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the first part of the meeting was formally closed at 5.10 p.m. on 15 October 2021.

*Annex*

**PARALLEL EVENTS**

**Ecological Civilization Forum**

1. At the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021, Mr. Cui Shuhong, Director-General of the Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China, reported on the Ecological Civilization Forum that had been held back-to-back with the meeting. He said that President Xi's speech had boosted confidence and injected political momentum into the process. A number of guests had made keynote speeches, and 100 experts and representatives had made statements at the Forum, focusing on co-building ecological civilization. They had recognized that the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity placed human well-being at risk. They understood that business had significant impacts on biodiversity but also depended on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and that there were opportunities to develop innovative financial tools and integrate biodiversity objectives into national economic development plans, thereby generating significant opportunities for the development of key economic sectors.

2. Ecological civilization meant building harmony between humanity and nature by mainstreaming biodiversity into all aspects of social life and respecting and protecting nature and following its laws. Green mountains were gold mountains, and natural resources needed to be monetized as a resource. Nature-based solutions could both help address climate change and halt biodiversity loss, but the protection of the mountains, streams, lakes and grasslands and the biodiversity they contained required the engagement of all of society. The two issues were two sides of the same coin: biodiversity had to be protected while addressing climate change. The whole of society had to be engaged in building a green economy that was also a circular economy. Biodiversity was the basis of the well-being of human beings, and biodiversity loss had thus to be accounted for as well and leveraged to boost international development.

3. Climate change was affecting the environment, including on the Tibetan Plateau, where more research needed to be undertaken. Financial partnerships had to be promoted for ecological protection, and initiatives were required in the financial sector to provide incentives for financial products and facilities that promoted ecological protection and cooperation. The Forum had provided a good foundation for global biological protection, and sharing experiences and learning from them would enable people to work together to build a beautiful future for all.

**Non-Governmental Organizations' Action Forum**

4. At the second plenary session of part I of the meeting, on 15 October 2021, Mr. Xu Guang, Secretary-General of the China Environmental Protection Foundation, reported on the Non-Governmental Organizations' Action Forum, held on 27 and 28 September 2021, in Kunming, China, in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Forum had been attended, either online or in person, by representatives of 31 countries and 249 organizations. It had provided a platform for women, indigenous peoples and others to voice their concerns and needs. Civil society played an important role in biodiversity protection but boosting them required more support from the institutions of the United Nations and its Parties. The Forum had made several recommendations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including on the need for: (a) non-State actors to work with State actors to provide more support to, and encourage more engagement from, indigenous peoples and local communities; (b) nature-based solutions to be leveraged in the framework's design for synergies with other institutions and agreements; (c) attention to be paid to less publicized species and ecosystems, as well as to marine protection; the private sector to be engaged to leverage green finance and environmental, social and governance systems for a better assessment of the needs of biodiversity; and (d) the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to support more training and resources for non-governmental organizations and more awareness-raising and technical measures to monitor species. A total of 10 Chinese non-governmental organizations and enterprises had committed to investing ¥2.5 billion over the next decade to support biodiversity protection projects in China and protect 10 million hectares, which was the first commitment by the private sector to protect biodiversity in China.