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## Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Fiftieth session

Bonn, 17–27 June 2019

Item 17 of the provisional agenda

**Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings**

## Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings

### Note by the Executive Secretary\*

#### *Summary*

This document provides information on:

- (a) An organizational scenario for COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2. Possible elements of the provisional agendas for the sessions are presented;
- (b) Preparations for future sessions of the governing bodies;
- (c) The frequency and location of sessions of the governing bodies taking place after 2020;
- (d) Opportunities for continued enhancement of the effective engagement of observer organizations and non-Party stakeholders.

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\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations and acronyms .....		3
I. Introduction .....	1–2	4
A. Mandate .....	1	4
B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation .....	2	4
II. December 2019 sessions of the governing bodies .....	3–30	4
A. Preparations for the sessions .....	3–7	4
B. Organization of the sessions .....	8–18	5
C. High-level segment .....	19–22	6
D. Possible elements of the provisional agendas .....	23–28	6
E. Relevant events .....	29–30	7
III. Future sessions .....	31–34	7
A. Future sessional periods .....	31–33	7
B. Calendar of meetings of the Convention bodies .....	34	8
IV. Organization of the intergovernmental process .....	35–41	8
A. Frequency and location of sessions of the governing bodies after 2020 .....	35–38	8
B. Enhancing the effective engagement of observer organizations and non-Party stakeholders .....	39–41	8
 Annexes		
I. Possible elements of the provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties .....		10
II. Possible elements of the provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol .....		12
III. Possible elements of the provisional agenda for the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement .....		13

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
COP	Conference of the Parties
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
TEC	Technology Executive Committee

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention, Article 14, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol and Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement provide that the functions of the secretariat shall be, inter alia, to make arrangements for sessions of the COP, the CMP and the CMA (hereinafter the governing bodies) and the subsidiary bodies under the Convention and to provide them with services as required. In order to make the necessary arrangements for intergovernmental meetings, the secretariat periodically seeks guidance from the SBI under its agenda item “Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings”.

### **B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

2. The SBI is invited:

(a) To provide advice or recommendations to the COP, the CMP and the CMA on the organization of their work during the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 13 December 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the Conference), and to provide advice and guidance to the Presidency, the incoming Presidency, the Bureau and the secretariat on the planning of the sessions;

(b) To provide advice to the secretariat on the possible elements of the provisional agendas for COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2;

(c) To recommend dates for the sessional periods in 2024 for adoption at COP 25;

(d) To consider the frequency and location of sessions of the governing bodies taking place after 2020;

(e) To provide guidance on opportunities to continue enhancing the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders.

## **II. December 2019 sessions of the governing bodies**

### **A. Preparations for the sessions**

3. COP 24 accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Chile to host COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2 and acknowledged the request of the Government of Chile to review the planned dates of the sessions. The COP invited the Executive Secretary to conduct consultations on the matter and inform the Bureau of the outcome and invited the Bureau to decide on the dates of the sessions.<sup>1</sup>

4. At its meeting via teleconference on 7 March 2019, the Bureau decided that the sessions would be convened from 2 to 13 December 2019, with a pre-sessional period for preparatory meetings from 26 November to 1 December 2019.

5. In taking the decision, the Bureau fully acknowledged the resulting logistical challenges for the host country and the delegates.

6. COP 24 requested the Executive Secretary to negotiate and finalize a Host Country Agreement for convening the sessions, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/243 and the provisions of United Nations administrative instruction ST/AI/342, with a view to concluding and signing the Host Country Agreement no later than at the fiftieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies for its prompt implementation.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 17/CP.24.

<sup>2</sup> As footnote 1 above.

7. At a meeting on 25 March 2019, a representative of the Government of Chile updated the Bureau on the preparations for the Conference. Further information on the preparations will be provided during SBI 50.

## **B. Organization of the sessions**

8. During the two-week sessional period of the Conference, sessions of the COP, the CMP, the CMA, the SBSTA and the SBI will take place. The Conference will also include a joint high-level segment of the COP, the CMP and the CMA.

9. As a basis for discussion, an initial overview of the organizational scenario of the Conference is presented below.

10. The Conference will open on Monday, 2 December. At the opening meeting, the President of COP 24, CMP 14 and CMA 1.3 would open COP 25 and propose the election of the President of COP 25, who would also serve as the President of CMP 15 and CMA 2.<sup>3</sup> The COP would then take up all items on its agenda, including the adoption of the agenda and the organization of work. The first meeting of the COP would then be adjourned.

11. CMP 15 would then be opened, and the CMP would take up all items on its agenda, including the adoption of the agenda and organization of work. The first meeting of the CMP would then be adjourned.

12. CMA 2 would then be opened, and the CMA would take up all items on its agenda, including the adoption of the agenda and organization of work. The first meeting of the CMA would then be adjourned.

13. The SBSTA and the SBI would then open their first plenary meetings in parallel. The SBSTA and the SBI will be considering numerous agenda items, including those relating to the ongoing implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and those resulting from the adoption of the Paris Agreement work programme at CMA 1.3. The SBSTA will also be finalizing an outstanding element of the work programme related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The SBSTA and the SBI would be considering some agenda items jointly and may wish to explore ways to launch and conclude such items jointly with a view to efficiently managing time and increasing coherence.

14. Upon conclusion of the first plenary meetings of the subsidiary bodies, a joint plenary meeting of the COP, the CMP, the CMA, the SBSTA and the SBI would be convened, also on 2 December, to hear concise statements on behalf of groups of Parties.

15. During the Conference, there will be several mandated events, including the high-level event on global climate action and the stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition under the COP.

16. The secretariat, in collaboration with the presiding officers and their facilitators, will continue efforts to ensure the efficient and effective use of time during the Conference.

17. In keeping with established practice, the Conference will be guided by the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, reflected in the conduct of formal and informal plenary meetings, the timely availability of documentation and meeting announcements and the broadcasting of relevant information on closed-circuit television and official UNFCCC online platforms including the website, Negotiator app and relevant social media sites.

18. Parties will be invited to consider and provide guidance to the Presidency, the incoming Presidency, the Bureau and the secretariat on these and other organizational aspects of the Conference to ensure that work can be organized and undertaken in an efficient manner to reach successful outcomes.

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<sup>3</sup> On 21 January 2019, the Government of Chile nominated Ms. Carolina Schmidt, Minister of the Environment of Chile, to serve as the President of COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2.

### C. High-level segment

19. The high-level segment of COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2 could be inaugurated on Wednesday, 11 December, with statements made by high-level dignitaries and on behalf of groups of Parties.

20. Joint plenary meetings of the COP, the CMP and the CMA could be held following the inauguration to hear national statements from ministers and other heads of delegation. There would be one speakers' list, including statements on behalf of Parties to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The recommended time limit for each statement, as at previous sessions, would be three minutes. The full texts of the official statements would be posted on the UNFCCC website.

21. Statements from observer organizations could be heard in a joint plenary meeting of the governing bodies upon completion of the national statements. As at previous sessions, the recommended time limit would be two minutes.

22. Parties may wish to provide guidance to the Presidency, the incoming Presidency, the Bureau and the secretariat on how to organize the high-level segment.

### D. Possible elements of the provisional agendas

23. Rule 9 of the draft rules of procedure being applied provides that "in agreement with the President, the secretariat shall draft the provisional agenda of each session".<sup>4</sup> Possible elements of the provisional agendas for COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2 have been prepared by the secretariat, following consultations with the President and the Bureau, and are contained in annexes I, II and III, respectively.

24. The possible elements are based on mandates from previous sessions, taking into account the outcomes of COP 24, CMP 14 and CMA 1.3.

25. With most elements of the Paris Agreement work programme now having been adopted, the CMA will need to develop a new agenda for its second session. The secretariat suggests that this could also be an opportunity to update the agendas of the COP and the CMP so that they better address the outcomes of the Paris and Katowice Conferences that relate to work under the COP and under the CMP with a view to developing agendas that are relevant, well structured, concise and forward-looking.

26. Regarding the preparation of the agendas of the governing bodies, efficiency could be increased by applying the following criteria:

(a) **Removing items that are traditionally referred orally to the subsidiary bodies and are standing items on their agendas:** traditionally, several items on the agendas of the governing bodies are referred to the subsidiary bodies for substantive consideration. The governing body then takes action, as needed, on the basis of the recommendation of the subsidiary body. Most of these matters are standing items on the agendas of the subsidiary bodies. While some have a mandate to be included in the relevant governing body agenda, others do not. The secretariat suggests not including an element if it does not have a mandate to be on the agenda in a particular year. For example, in 2019 capacity-building has been proposed as an element of the agenda of the COP, specifically because of the review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, and as an element of the agenda of the CMA, because of the consideration of capacity-building institutional arrangements serving the Paris Agreement. However, there is no mandate for it to be considered under the CMP and, therefore, the secretariat proposes not including this issue on the CMP agenda in 2019. Consideration of elements not included is not lost as, if needed, the matter can be forwarded to the relevant governing body for consideration through the report of the respective subsidiary body. This measure would reduce some of the procedural work undertaken by the governing bodies, reduce the length of their plenary meetings and clearly identify on the agenda the issues for active consideration by the governing body;

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<sup>4</sup> FCCC/CP/1996/2.

(b) **Exploring ways to conclude the consideration of items that have been held in abeyance for several years:** the long-standing item “Second review of the adequacy of Article 4, paragraph 2(a) and (b), of the Convention” has been held in abeyance for several years. Parties may wish to conclude the consideration of this matter;

(c) **Exploring ways to conclude the consideration of items that have repeatedly failed to reach a consensus on an outcome:** examples include “Consideration of proposals by Parties for amendments to the Convention under Article 15”, “Decision-making in the UNFCCC process” and “Report on the high-level ministerial round table on increased ambition of Kyoto Protocol commitments”. Parties may wish to conclude the consideration of these matters;

(d) **Not including items that have not had matters for consideration at recent sessions:** one example is the item “Other matters referred to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol by the subsidiary bodies”, previously included on the CMP agenda. Decisions and conclusions recommended to the CMP by the subsidiary bodies on matters that were not referred to them by the CMP have traditionally been considered through the report of the respective subsidiary body. Removing this element from the agendas of the governing bodies would not have any negative impact on their work.

27. Regarding the development of the CMA 2 agenda, having explored several options and considered the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches, the secretariat proposes to structure the CMA 2 agenda by clustering agenda sub-items under a general substantive topic. This approach is similar to that used by the COP and the CMP.

28. Parties will be invited to present their views on the possible elements of the provisional agendas for COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2. Taking those views into account, the secretariat will finalize the provisional agendas in agreement with the President and make them available in the official United Nations languages at least six weeks before the opening of the sessions, in accordance with rule 11 of the draft rules of procedure being applied.

## E. Relevant events

29. Several events relevant to the UNFCCC process will be organized prior to COP 25, including the United Nations Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and sessions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

30. Parties may wish to reflect on how the above-mentioned events and other relevant events can advance UNFCCC negotiations.

## III. Future sessions

### A. Future sessional periods

31. COP 24 noted that, in keeping with the principle of rotation among the regional groups, the President of COP 26 would come from the Western European and other States. According to decision 23/CP.21, COP 26 is to be held from 9 to 20 November 2020.

32. In this context and to facilitate early planning, the SBI may wish to encourage the Western European and other States to finalize their consultations and submit an offer prior to SBI 50 to host COP 26, to be forwarded for consideration at COP 25.

33. In keeping with the principle of rotation among the regional groups, the President of COP 27 would come from the African States. According to decision 24/CP.22, COP 27 is to be convened from 8 to 19 November 2021. The SBI may also wish to encourage the African

States to initiate their consultations with a view to taking an early decision regarding proposing a host for COP 27.<sup>5</sup>

## **B. Calendar of meetings of the Convention bodies**

34. The SBI may wish to recommend the following dates for the sessional periods in 2024, for consideration and adoption at COP 25:<sup>6</sup>

- (a) First sessional period: Monday, 3 June to Thursday, 13 June;
- (b) Second sessional period: Monday, 11 November to Friday, 22 November.

## **IV. Organization of the intergovernmental process**

### **A. Frequency and location of sessions of the governing bodies after 2020**

35. Since 2012, the SBI has considered various options relating to the frequency, organization and location of the sessions of the governing bodies, including options for changing the periodicity of these sessions from annual to biennial and options for alternating the sessions between the seat of the secretariat and a host country, taking into account the implications of the proposed changes. The secretariat has in the past provided budgetary information that assisted in the consideration of the proposed options.

36. In 2016, the SBI reconsidered the frequency of sessions and the organization of the process. SBI 44 acknowledged that it was necessary to continue convening annual sessions of the COP, the CMP and the CMA in the pre-2020 period as a result of the work arising from the Paris Agreement.<sup>7</sup> In 2018, SBI 48 agreed to reconsider the matter at SBI 50 to allow Parties to take the outcomes of the Paris Agreement work programme fully into account.<sup>8</sup>

37. To facilitate the discussion at SBI 50, SBI 48 invited Parties to submit their views on the frequency and location of sessions of the governing bodies taking place after 2020 by 15 March 2019. The secretariat was requested to prepare a synthesis report on the submissions and an information paper on matters such as the budgetary and other implications of the different proposals contained in the submissions.<sup>9, 10</sup>

38. Parties are invited to provide their views on the frequency and organization of sessions of the governing bodies.

### **B. Enhancing the effective engagement of observer organizations and non-Party stakeholders**

39. As at 2018, over 2,400 non-governmental organizations and 130 intergovernmental organizations had been admitted as observers to the UNFCCC process. There are various opportunities for observer organizations and other non-Party stakeholders to participate and engage in the process, including following and receiving briefings on the negotiations and providing input to the process.

40. Following the in-session workshop at SBI 46 on opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders,<sup>11</sup> SBI 48 took stock of progress in implementing the SBI conclusions on non-Party stakeholder engagement and reiterated the importance of enhancing their engagement in the intergovernmental process. It invited

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<sup>5</sup> This recommendation does not prejudice the ongoing discussion within the SBI regarding the frequency and location of sessions of the governing bodies.

<sup>6</sup> As footnote 5 above.

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/SBI/2016/8, paragraph 157.

<sup>8</sup> FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraph 140.

<sup>9</sup> As footnote 8 above.

<sup>10</sup> At the time of publication of this document, the secretariat had received one submission.

<sup>11</sup> See document FCCC/SBI/2017/7, paragraph 119.

Parties and non-Party stakeholders to continue to identify at SBI 50 opportunities and improved practices for further enhancing the openness, transparency, inclusiveness and balance of the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders in a manner that enhances the implementation of the Convention.<sup>12</sup>

41. The secretariat is engaging with the constituency focal points to gather their views on the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders, including in the following areas, with a view to facilitating continued discussion by the SBI on:

- (a) Modes of delivering statements at sessions;
- (b) Early dialogue between Parties, non-Party stakeholders and the incoming Presidency;
- (c) Other ways of enhancing non-Party stakeholder participation.

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<sup>12</sup> FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraph 142.

## Annex I

### Possible elements of the provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties

- Opening of the session.
- Organizational matters:
  - Election of the President of COP 25;
  - Adoption of the rules of procedure;
  - Adoption of the agenda;
  - Election of officers other than the President;
  - Admission of organizations as observers;
  - Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies;
  - Dates and venues of future sessions;
  - Adoption of the report on credentials.
- Reports of the subsidiary bodies:
  - Report of the SBSTA;
  - Report of the SBI.
- Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.
- Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.
- Report of the Adaptation Committee.
- Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change impacts.<sup>1</sup>
- Matters relating to finance:
  - Long-term climate finance;
  - Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance;
  - Report of the GCF to the COP and guidance to the GCF;
  - Report of the GEF to the COP and guidance to the GEF.
- Development and transfer of technologies: joint annual report of the TEC and the CTCN.
- Capacity-building under the Convention.
- Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures.<sup>2</sup>
- Gender and climate change.
- Administrative, financial and institutional matters:
  - Audit report and financial statements for 2018;
  - Budget performance for the biennium 2018–2019;
  - Programme budget for the biennium 2020–2021;
  - Decision-making in the UNFCCC process.

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<sup>1</sup> Authority over and guidance to the Warsaw International Mechanism, including its Executive Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Includes matters relating to progress on the implementation of decision 1/CP.10.

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- High-level segment:
    - Statements by Parties;
    - Statements by observer organizations.
  - Other matters.
  - Conclusion of the session:
    - Adoption of the report on the session;
    - Closure of the session.
  - *Matters relating to the least developed countries.*<sup>3</sup>
  - *Other matters referred to the COP by the subsidiary bodies.*<sup>4</sup>
  - *Consideration of proposals by Parties for amendments to the Convention under Article 15:*<sup>5</sup>
    - *Proposal from the Russian Federation to amend Article 4, paragraph 2(f), of the Convention;*
    - *Proposal from Papua New Guinea and Mexico to amend Articles 7 and 18 of the Convention.*
  - *Second review of the adequacy of Article 4, paragraph 2(a) and (b), of the Convention.*<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 26(a) of this document.

<sup>4</sup> See paragraph 26(d) of this document.

<sup>5</sup> See paragraph 26(c) of this document.

<sup>6</sup> See paragraph 26(b) of this document.

## Annex II

### **Possible elements of the provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol**

- Opening of the session.
- Organizational matters:
  - Adoption of the agenda;
  - Election of additional officers;
  - Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies;
  - Approval of the report on credentials;
  - Status of ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.
- Reports of the subsidiary bodies:
  - Report of the SBSTA;
  - Report of the SBI.
- Matters relating to the clean development mechanism.
- Matters relating to joint implementation.
- Report of the Compliance Committee.
- Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund.
- Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I:<sup>1</sup>
  - National communications;
  - Annual compilation and accounting report for the second commitment period for Annex B Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.
- Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures.
- Administrative, financial and institutional matters:
  - Audit report and financial statements for 2018;
  - Budget performance for the biennium 2018–2019;
  - Programme budget for the biennium 2020–2021.
- High-level segment:
  - Statements by Parties;
  - Statements by observer organizations.
- Other matters.
- Conclusion of the session.
  - Adoption of the report on the session;
  - Closure of the session.
- *Capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol.*<sup>2</sup>
- *Other matters referred to the CMP by the subsidiary bodies.*<sup>3</sup>
- *Report on the high-level ministerial round table on increased ambition of Kyoto Protocol commitments.*<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The term “Party included in Annex I” is defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol.

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 26(a) of this document.

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 26(d) of this document.

<sup>4</sup> See paragraph 26(c) above.

## Annex III

### **Possible elements of the provisional agenda for the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement**

- Opening of the session.
- Organizational matters:
  - Adoption of the agenda;
  - Election of additional officers;
  - Organization of work;
  - Approval of the report on credentials;
  - Status of ratification of the Paris Agreement.
- Reports of the subsidiary bodies:
  - Report of the SBSTA;
  - Report of the SBI.
- Public registries under the Paris Agreement:
  - Modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement;
  - Modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement.
- Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.
- Matters relating to finance:
  - Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance;
  - Guidance to the GCF;
  - Guidance to the GEF;
  - Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund.
- Development and transfer of technologies: Joint annual report of the TEC and the CTCN.
- Capacity-building under the Paris Agreement.
- Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures.
- Cooperative implementation under the Paris Agreement:
  - Guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement;
  - Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism defined under Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement;
  - Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement.
- Special needs and special circumstances of Africa under the Paris Agreement.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Requested by the Chair of the African Group on behalf of the group in a letter to the secretariat dated 28 November 2018.

- Administrative, financial and institutional matters:
    - Audit report and financial statements for 2018;
    - Budget performance for the biennium 2018–2019;
    - Programme budget for the biennium 2020–2021.
  - High-level segment:
    - Statements by Parties;
    - Statements by observer organizations.
  - Other matters.
  - Conclusion of the session:
    - Adoption of the report on the session;
    - Closure of the session.
-