

DRAFT TEXT
on
SBI 58 agenda item 19
Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The SBI took note of the document on arrangements for intergovernmental meetings prepared for this session.¹

Preparations for COP 28, CMP 18 and CMA 5

2. The SBI noted with appreciation the preparations by the Government of the United Arab Emirates for ensuring the success of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held there from 30 November to 12 December 2023, which will include COP 28, CMP 18, CMA 5 and SB 59.

3. The SBI noted that the Government of the United Arab Emirates will invite Heads of State and Government to attend the World Climate Action Summit to be held at the Conference from 1 to 2 December 2023.

4. The SBI invited the incoming Presidency of COP 28, CMP 18 and CMA 5, in consultation with the secretariat and the Bureau, to finalize the details of the arrangements for the Conference and to keep Parties informed thereof.

5. The SBI requested the secretariat to take note of the views of Parties on the possible elements of the provisional agendas for COP 28, CMP 18 and CMA 5.

6. The SBI emphasized the importance of openness, transparency, inclusiveness and adhering to established decision-making practice in making arrangements for the Conference.

7. The SBI welcomed the continued efforts of the COP 27 Presidency, the incoming COP 28 Presidency and the presiding officers of the subsidiary bodies to ensure efficiency, coordination, coherence, management and due process in the consideration of issues under discussion.

8. Reiterating the need to ensure efficient time management during the Conference, the SBI requested the presiding officers, with the support of the secretariat, to continue to enhance efforts in this regard, noting the improvements made at past sessions.

9. The SBI invited the secretariat to make arrangements for the delivery of concise national statements by ministers and other heads of delegation during the high-level segment of the Conference with a recommended time limit of three minutes, and statements by representatives of observer organizations with a recommended time limit of two minutes. The SBI encouraged Parties and observer organizations to keep within their respective time allocations.

Hosts of future sessions

10. Option 1: The SBI expressed its appreciation to the Government of ... for offering to host COP 29 (November 2024).

Option 2: The SBI noted that, in keeping with the principle of rotation among the United Nations regional groups, the President of COP 29 (November 2024) would come from the Eastern European States. The SBI urged the Eastern European States to accelerate consultations within the group with a view to presenting an offer to host COP 29 as soon as possible and no later than at COP 28 in order to facilitate timely planning.

11. The SBI expressed its appreciation to the Government of Brazil for offering to host COP 30 (November 2025).

¹ FCCC/SBI/2023/8.

12. The SBI noted that, in keeping with the principle of rotation among the United Nations regional groups, the President of COP 31 (2026) would come from the Western European and other States. The SBI encouraged the Western European and other States to finalize their consultations and submit an offer to host COP 31 as soon as possible and no later than at SBI 62 (June 2025) in order to facilitate early planning.

13. The SBI reiterated that confirming the host country for a session of the COP as far in advance of the conference as possible minimizes logistical and financial risks and enables the secretariat to facilitate timely planning.

14. The SBI noted the importance of ensuring the full participation of Parties and observer organizations in sessions of the governing and subsidiary bodies and encouraged the secretariat and hosts of future sessions to make logistical arrangements that will facilitate the inclusive and effective participation of Parties and observer organizations, including timely issuance of visas, availability of affordable accommodation, a safe and secure conference venue and ease of access to the conference venue and the meeting rooms.

15. The SBI noted some Parties' view that for transparency the host country agreement for sessions of the COP should be made publicly available.

Calendar of future sessions

16. The SBI recommended the following dates for the sessional periods in 2026 for consideration and adoption at COP 28:

- (a) First sessional period: Monday, 8 June, to Thursday, 18 June;
- (b) Second sessional period: Monday, 9 November, to Friday, 20 November.

17. The SBI also recommended the following dates for the sessional periods in 2027 for consideration and adoption at COP 28:

- (a) First sessional period: Monday, 7 June, to Thursday, 17 June;
- (b) Second sessional period: Monday, 8 November, to Friday, 19 November.

Increasing efficiency in the UNFCCC process

18. The SBI acknowledged the submission² from Parties and one observer organization on approaches to and initiatives for increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process towards enhancing ambition and strengthening implementation.

19. The SBI took note with appreciation of the information paper on past sessions and regional distribution of observer organizations prepared for this session.³

20. The SBI noted the challenges posed by the increasing scale of the UNFCCC conferences, in particular the growing number of agenda items and mandated events since in-person sessions resumed after the pandemic. It took note of the implications of this for the transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness of the process and for the budget and other organizational issues. It noted that improving efficiency is Party-driven and requires the efforts of all actors in the spirit of confidence and trust, and in respect of agreed mandates and balance.

21. The SBI took note of the rich exchange of views among Parties and observer organizations at this session and noted the following options for increasing efficiency in the UNFCCC process:

- (a) Streamlining the agendas of the governing and subsidiary bodies, including by:
 - (i) Consolidating items under broad headings without altering the agreed items;
 - (ii) Clustering items where possible;

² Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field, type "arrangements for intergovernmental meetings").

³ FCCC/SBI/2023/INF.5.

- (iii) Reducing duplication of items across bodies;
- (b) Encouraging COP Presidencies and the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to present procedural agenda items for approval through a no-objection procedure;
- (c) Encouraging the current and incoming COP Presidencies to work jointly on a multi-year agenda;
- (d) Encouraging the Bureau to provide guidance on the indicative number of mandated events to be held during sessions and intersessionally;
- (e) Continuing to provide options for Parties and observers to participate virtually in meetings and mandated events;
- (f) Encouraging the COP to adopt the rules of procedure.

22. The SBI requested the secretariat to prepare a technical paper for consideration at SBI 60 (June 2024) on options for reducing overlapping items on the provisional agendas of the governing and subsidiary bodies.

23. The SBI agreed to continue consideration of increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process towards enhancing ambition and strengthening implementation at SBI 60 taking into account the technical paper referred to in [paragraph 22](#) above.

Observer engagement

24. The SBI took note of the information on enhancing engagement of observer organizations in the UNFCCC intergovernmental process prepared for this session.⁴

25. The SBI reaffirmed the value of substantive contributions from observer organizations for achieving ambitious outcomes in the intergovernmental process, as well as the value of their contributions to implementing the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

26. The SBI acknowledged with concern the regional imbalance of observer participation in the process and the need to enable the observer organizations from developing countries to represent themselves.

27. The SBI also acknowledged the increasing number of admitted observer organizations and the challenge that this creates for delivering on the expectations for meaningful engagement.

28. The SBI reaffirmed past conclusions on the importance of openness, transparency and inclusivity in the intergovernmental process and ways to enhance observer engagement. In this context, it encouraged presiding officers, Parties and the secretariat to continue implementing those conclusions.

29. In order to ensure open, inclusive and meaningful observer engagement, while respecting the Party-driven nature of the UNFCCC process, the SBI highlighted the following further enhancements to observer engagement that could be considered, subject to the availability of resources:

- (a) Recommending COP Presidencies to:
 - (i) Ensure open, inclusive and meaningful engagement of observer organizations in the lead-up to, during and after sessions of the COP in terms of both logistical arrangements and engagement opportunities;
 - (ii) Consider providing a space for a wide range of stakeholders to engage with Parties and express views on substantive issues;
 - (iii) Consider developing youth-focused capacity building initiatives in the lead-up to sessions;

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2023/8, paras. 27–34.

- (b) Encouraging all Parties to:
 - (i) Keep all negotiation meetings open to observers, while recognizing the right of Parties to close meetings at any time;
 - (ii) Remain in plenary meetings to listen to all observer statements;
 - (iii) Include youth in their national delegations;
 - (iv) Encourage youth engagement on climate action at the national level;
- (c) Requesting the secretariat to:
 - (i) Ensure that the standard wording of calls for submissions of information and views refers to Parties and observer organizations;
 - (ii) Explore modalities for ensuring regional balance of observer participation in the process;
 - (iii) Explore how to support the participation of observers from developing countries in sessions.

30. The SBI took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraphs **xxx** above.

31. It requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.
