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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings

Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings

Note by the Executive Secretary

Summary

This document primarily provides information on:

(a) The twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. An organizational scenario and possible elements of the provisional agendas for COP 23 and CMP 13 are presented;

(b) Preparations for future sessions of the governing bodies. Guidance is sought from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation regarding the dates for the sessional periods in 2022;

(c) Organization of the intergovernmental process, including the engagement of observer organizations.

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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 Conference of the Parties (COP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) 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 Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

2. The SBI is invited to:

(a) 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 Bonn, Germany,¹ from Monday, 6 November, to Friday, 17 November 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the Conference), as well as advice and guidance to the COP 22/CMP 12/CMA 1 Bureau, the Presidencies and the secretariat on the planning of the sessions;

(b) Provide advice to the secretariat on possible elements of the provisional agendas for COP 23 and CMP 13;²

(c) Recommend dates for the sessional periods in 2022 for adoption at COP 23;

(d) Exchange views and provide guidance on the organization of the intergovernmental process, including by considering opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders with a view to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of decision 1/CP.21.

II. Twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties, thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

A. Introduction

3. During the two-week sessional period of the Conference, sessions of the COP, the CMP, the CMA, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the SBI and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) will take place. The Conference will include a joint high-level segment of the COP, the CMP and the CMA

¹ Decision 24/CP.22, paragraph 4.

² Since the first session of the CMA was suspended in November 2016, the CMA agenda remains unchanged.

during the second week so that national statements and statements of representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations can be heard. No decisions will be taken at those joint meetings.

4. The Conference will be an important step towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement as well as the further implementation of other mandates and activities under the governing bodies, the permanent subsidiary bodies and the ad hoc working group.

B. Preparations for the sessions

5. COP 22 accepted with appreciation the nomination by the Asia-Pacific States of a representative of the Government of Fiji to serve as the President of COP 23/CMP 13/CMA 1.2 and requested the Executive Secretary to make the necessary arrangements for convening the sessions at the seat of the secretariat.

6. At its meeting of 17 March 2017, the secretariat reported on the preparations for the sessions and confirmed to the Bureau of COP 22/CMP 12/CMA 1 that the process is advancing well. Further information on the preparations for the Conference will be provided during SBI 46.

C. Organization of the sessions

7. The President of COP 22/CMP 12/CMA 1.1 would open the Conference on Monday, 6 November, at the opening meeting of the COP, and would propose the election of its President. The COP would then take up some of its organizational and procedural agenda items, including the adoption of the agenda and the organization of work. The COP would refer items of its agenda to the subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. The opening meeting of the COP would then be adjourned.

8. Next, CMP 13 would be opened and the CMP would take up some of the organizational and procedural items on its agenda, including the adoption of the agenda and the organization of work. The CMP would refer items of its agenda to the subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. The opening meeting of the CMP would then be adjourned.

9. Next, CMA would resume its first session at its second part and would take up some of its organizational and procedural agenda items.

10. This would be followed by the COP, the CMP and the CMA convening in a joint plenary meeting to hear concise statements on behalf of groups of Parties. The COP, the CMP and the CMA would again convene in plenary meetings later in the week to take up the items on their agendas not referred to the subsidiary bodies.

11. A joint meeting of the COP and the CMA will be convened during the sessions to review progress on the implementation of the work programme under the Paris Agreement.³

12. The SBSTA, the SBI and the APA will be considering numerous issues, including those relating to ongoing work and mandates arising from COP 21/CMP 11 and COP 22/CMP 12/CMA 1.1. COP 22 requested the SBSTA, the SBI, the APA and the constituted bodies under the Convention to accelerate their work on the work programme described in decision 1/CMA.1, paragraphs 5–7, and to forward the outcomes to COP 24.⁴ In this regard, the presiding officers of those bodies may wish to ensure coherence in the implementation

³ Decision 1/CMA.1, paragraph 10.

⁴ Decision 1/CP.22, paragraph 10.

of mandates across the bodies. The SBI will also be organizing a multilateral assessment working group session and a facilitative sharing of views workshop.

13. The above-mentioned scenario is in line with previous approaches to the organization of conferences.

14. At its meeting in Rabat on 17 March 2017, the Bureau considered how to organize work during the Conference in an effective manner. Members of the Bureau identified issues that Parties may wish to consider and provide guidance on, including when to conclude the sessions of the three subsidiary bodies and how to ensure coordination, coherence and management of related issues across bodies within mandated timelines.

15. Parties will be invited to consider and provide guidance on these and other organizational aspects of the Conference to ensure that all bodies can advance their work in an efficient manner.

16. In keeping with the principles established at previous conferences, the Conference will be guided by the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness. Efforts to those ends will therefore continue to be made through informal plenary meetings, the electronic availability of documentation and plenary statements, timely meeting announcements and the broadcasting of meeting information on closed-circuit television and the UNFCCC website.

D. High-level segment

17. The high-level segment of COP 23/CMP 13/CMA 1.2 will be organized in keeping with recent best practice related to time management. The inauguration of the high-level segment will take place in the afternoon of Tuesday, 14 November. Statements would be made by high-level dignitaries and on behalf of groups of Parties, as appropriate.

18. The COP, the CMP and the CMA will convene in joint plenary meetings in the afternoon of Tuesday, 14 November, and on Wednesday, 15 November, to hear national statements from ministers and other heads of delegation. There would be one speakers' list, including for statements on behalf of Parties to the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement. The recommended time limit for each statement, as at previous sessions, would be three minutes. A bell system would be put in place to make the best use of the limited time available. The full texts of the official statements would be posted on the UNFCCC website.

19. A further joint meeting of the COP, the CMP and the CMA would be convened in the morning of Thursday, 16 November, to hear statements of observer organizations. As at previous sessions, the recommended time limit would be two minutes. Separate meetings of the COP, the CMP and the CMA would be held for the adoption of decisions and conclusions emerging from the sessions.

20. The high-level event on climate action⁵ will be convened during the high-level segment. Further information on the event will be provided in due course.

E. Possible elements of the provisional agendas

21. 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".⁶ Possible

⁵ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 120.

⁶ FCCC/CP/1996/2.

elements of the provisional agendas for COP 23 and CMP 13 have been prepared by the secretariat, following consultations with the President and the Bureau, and are contained in annexes I and II. The possible elements closely follow recent agendas and reflect the important new outcomes of COP 22 and CMP 12. In addition, they include organizational and procedural elements, as well as the high-level segment for ministers and other heads of delegation. The adopted agenda for CMA 1.2 is contained in annex III.

22. Parties will be invited to present their views on the possible elements of the provisional agendas for COP 23 and CMP 13. Taking into account those views, 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.

III. Future sessional periods

A. Future sessional periods of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

23. COP 22 noted that, in keeping with the principle of rotation among regional groups, the President of COP 24 would come from the Eastern European States. In this context, the COP decided to accept with appreciation the offer by the Government of Poland to host COP 24.⁷

24. The COP also decided to adjust the previously agreed dates of COP 24 to Monday, 3 December, to Friday, 14 December 2018.⁸

25. COP 22 also noted that, in keeping with the principle of rotation among regional groups, the President of COP 25 would come from the Latin American and Caribbean States.

26. In this context, the SBI may wish to encourage the Latin American and Caribbean States to present an offer to SBI 46 to host COP 25, which would be forwarded for consideration at COP 23.

27. The SBI may also wish to invite the Western European and other States to come forward with offers to host COP 26.

B. Calendar of meetings of the Convention bodies

28. SBI 46 will be invited to recommend dates for the sessional periods in 2022, as follows:

- (a) First sessional period: Monday, 6 June, to Thursday, 16 June;
- (b) Second sessional period: Monday, 7 November, to Friday, 18 November.

⁷ Decision 24/CP.22, paragraphs 8 and 9.

⁸ Decision 24/CP.22, paragraph 7.

29. The SBI may wish to consider the proposed dates for these sessional periods and provide guidance on the dates of future sessional periods with a view to recommending them for consideration and adoption at COP 23.

IV. Organization of the intergovernmental process

A. Implications for the organization of the intergovernmental process in the light of the entry into force of the Paris Agreement

30. The SBI periodically provides Parties with an opportunity to discuss the organization of the intergovernmental process and to exchange views on relevant matters.⁹ With the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, three supreme bodies now meet in addition to the two permanent subsidiary bodies and the ad hoc working group. Reflecting on their experience at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Marrakech, Morocco, Parties are invited to share their initial assessment of the implications for the intergovernmental process of the addition of the CMA to the governing bodies. Parties may wish to consider the implications for the timely completion of the work of all bodies during the sessions.

31. The SBSTA and the SBI have received new mandates from the COP, resulting from the Paris Agreement and the Marrakech Conference. Some of the new mandates or work programmes overlap with existing agenda items. Parties may wish to explore how to focus work on achieving outcomes that meet the objective of the Convention and facilitate the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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

32. SBI 44 reaffirmed the value of contributions from observer organizations to deliberations on substantive issues and acknowledged the need to further enhance the effective engagement of observer organizations as the UNFCCC process moves forward into the implementation and operationalization of the Paris Agreement.¹⁰

33. In this context, the SBI agreed to convene at SBI 46 an in-session workshop on opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders with a view to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of decision 1/CP.21.¹¹

34. Parties, observer organizations and interested United Nations agencies were invited to submit, by 28 February 2017 at the latest, their views on opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders with a view to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of decision 1/CP.21.¹²

35. The SBI requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on those views,¹³ to be used as background information for the workshop referred to in paragraph 33 above.¹⁴ The SBI also requested the secretariat to prepare a report on that workshop for consideration at SBI 46.¹⁵

⁹ FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 216(a).

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2016/8, paragraph 162.

¹¹ FCCC/SBI/2016/8, paragraph 163.

¹² FCCC/SBI/2016/8, paragraph 164.

¹³ To be issued as document FCCC/SBI/2017/INF.3.

¹⁴ As footnote 12 above.

¹⁵ As footnote 12 above.

C. Other organizational matters

36. COP 22 noted the high costs associated with convening sessions of the supreme bodies of the Convention and requested SBI 46 to consider this matter in the context of arrangements for intergovernmental meetings.¹⁶

¹⁶ Decision 24/CP.22, paragraph 6.

Annex I

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

- (a) Opening of the session.
- (b) Organizational matters:
 - (i) Election of the President of the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-third session;
 - (ii) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - (iii) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (iv) Election of officers other than the President;
 - (v) Admission of organizations as observers;
 - (vi) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies;¹
 - (vii) Dates and venues of future sessions;
 - (viii) Adoption of the report on credentials.
- (c) Reports of the subsidiary bodies:
 - (i) Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice;
 - (ii) Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;
 - (iii) Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement.
- (d) Preparations for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.²
- (e) Consideration of proposals by Parties for amendments to the Convention under Article 15:
 - (i) Proposal from the Russian Federation to amend Article 4, paragraph 2(f), of the Convention;
 - (ii) Proposal from Papua New Guinea and Mexico to amend Articles 7 and 18 of the Convention.
- (f) Report of the Adaptation Committee.
- (g) Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.
- (h) Development and transfer of technologies and implementation of the Technology Mechanism:³

¹ The annotations to this element will include details on the joint meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to review progress on the implementation of the work programme under the Paris Agreement, mandated in paragraph 10 of decision 1/CMA.1. The outcomes of the President's consultations on the vulnerability of Africa will also be taken up under this sub-element.

² At COP 22, negotiations under this element resulted in a mandate for the Presidency and the incoming Presidency to consult with Parties on the organization of the 2018 facilitative dialogue. Follow-up related to the outcomes of those consultations will therefore be conducted under this element.

³ Consideration of the regular sub-element "Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism" was deferred until COP 24 (decision 14/CP.22, paragraph 10). It has therefore not been included on this list of elements.

- (i) Joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
 - (ii) Review of the effective implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.⁴
- (i) Second review of the adequacy of Article 4, paragraph 2(a) and (b), of the Convention.
- (j) Matters relating to finance:
 - (i) Long-term climate finance;
 - (ii) Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance;
 - (iii) Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund;
 - (iv) Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility;
 - (v) Sixth review of the Financial Mechanism;
 - (vi) The process to identify the information to be provided by Parties in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement.
- (k) Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.
- (l) Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.
- (m) Capacity-building under the Convention.⁵
- (n) Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention:
 - (i) Implementation of the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures (decision 1/CP.10);
 - (ii) Matters relating to the least developed countries.
- (o) Gender and climate change.
- (p) Other matters referred to the Conference of the Parties by the subsidiary bodies.
- (q) Administrative, financial and institutional matters:
 - (i) Audit report and financial statements for 2016;
 - (ii) Budget performance for the biennium 2016–2017;
 - (iii) Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;
 - (iv) Decision-making in the UNFCCC process;
 - (v) Review of the process established by decision 14/CP.1 relating to the selection and nomination of the Executive Secretary (at the level of Under-Secretary-General) and the Deputy Executive Secretary (at the level of Assistant Secretary-General).
- (r) High-level segment:
 - (i) Statements by Parties;
 - (ii) Statements by observer organizations.

⁴ The mandate for this review can be found in decision 2/CP.17, annex VII, paragraph 20.

⁵ The annotations for this element will include the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (decision 2/CP.22, annex, para. 17) and the fourth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition (decision 21/CP.18, para. 4).

- (s) Other matters.
- (t) Conclusion of the session:
 - (i) Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-third session;
 - (ii) Closure of the session.

Annex II

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

- (a) Opening of the session.
- (b) Organizational matters:
 - (i) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (ii) Election of additional officers;
 - (iii) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies;
 - (iv) Approval of the report on credentials;
 - (v) Status of ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.
- (c) Reports of the subsidiary bodies:
 - (i) Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice;
 - (ii) Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.
- (d) Matters relating to the clean development mechanism.
- (e) Matters relating to joint implementation.
- (f) Report of the Compliance Committee.
- (g) Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund:
 - (i) Report of the Adaptation Fund Board;
 - (ii) Third review of the Adaptation Fund.
- (h) Report on the high-level ministerial round table on increased ambition of Kyoto Protocol commitments.
- (i) Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I:¹
 - (i) National communications;
 - (ii) Annual compilation and accounting report for the second commitment period for Annex B Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.
- (j) Capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol.
- (k) Matters relating to:
 - (i) Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Kyoto Protocol;
 - (ii) Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.
- (l) Other matters referred to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol by the subsidiary bodies.
- (m) Administrative, financial and institutional matters:
 - (i) Audit report and financial statements for 2016;

¹ The term "Party included in Annex I" is defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol.

- (ii) Budget performance for the biennium 2016–2017;
 - (iii) Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.
- (n) High-level segment:
 - (i) Statements by Parties;
 - (ii) Statements by observer organizations.
- (o) Other matters.
- (p) Conclusion of the session:
 - (i) Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol on its thirteenth session;
 - (ii) Closure of the session.

Annex III

Agenda for the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Application of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) Election of additional officers;
 - (d) Organization of work;
 - (e) Status of ratification of the Paris Agreement;
 - (f) Approval of the report on credentials.
3. Matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.¹
4. High-level segment.
5. Other matters.
6. Conclusion of the session:
 - (a) Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;
 - (b) Closure of the session.

¹ This agenda item will address the modalities, procedures and guidelines that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its first session is expected to consider and take decisions on in accordance with the mandates contained in the Paris Agreement, as well as the draft decisions to be recommended by the subsidiary bodies through the Conference of the Parties to CMA 1 for its consideration and adoption in accordance with the work programme in decision 1/CP.21, including Article 4 of the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 22–35; Article 6 and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 36–40; Article 7 and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41, 42 and 45; Article 8 and decision 1/CP. 21, paragraphs 47–51; Article 9 and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 52–64; Article 10 and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 66–70; Articles 11 and 12 and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 81–83; Article 13 and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 84–98; Article 14 and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 99–101; and Article 15 and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 102 and 103. Any other matter concerning the implementation of the Paris Agreement could also be addressed by the CMA under this agenda item, as decided by the CMA. Further details on these mandates are included in the annotations to the provisional agenda in chapter III.