



---

## Subsidiary Body for Implementation

### Fifty-eighth session

Bonn, 5–15 June 2023

Agenda item 19

### Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings

## Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings

### Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) took note of the document on arrangements for intergovernmental meetings prepared for this session.<sup>1</sup>

## **I. Preparations for the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement**

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 the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) and the fifty-ninth sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

3. The SBI also 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBI/2023/8.



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.

## **II. Hosts of future sessions**

10. 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).

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 highlighted the importance of ensuring the full participation of Parties and the effective and meaningful participation of observer organizations in sessions of the governing and subsidiary bodies and mandated events. It encouraged the secretariat and hosts of future sessions of the governing and subsidiary bodies and mandated events to make logistical arrangements that will facilitate the inclusive and effective participation of Parties and observer organizations, including timely issuance of visas, where required, to all participants, availability of affordable accommodation, a safe and secure conference venue for all, and ease of access to the conference venue and the meeting rooms.

15. The SBI noted with concern the difficulties experienced by some delegates in obtaining visas to enable them to attend UNFCCC sessions and mandated events convened at the seat of the secretariat.

16. The SBI encouraged hosts of future sessions and mandated events to reaffirm their commitment to upholding the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and international human rights law before, during and after UNFCCC sessions and mandated events, and to ensure that participants can exercise those human rights without fear of intimidation and repercussions.

17. The SBI welcomed UNFCCC policies and the efforts of the secretariat to secure the conference venue and highlighted that all participants must abide by the UNFCCC code of conduct<sup>2</sup> at the meeting premises and respect the national laws of the host country outside the meeting premises.

18. The SBI noted that for transparency the host country agreement for sessions of the COP should be made publicly available consistently with the United Nations Charter.

19. The SBI noted that host country agreements should reflect the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter as well as respective obligations under international human

---

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/about-us/code-of-conduct-for-unfccc-conferences-meetings-and-events>.

rights law, and enable inclusive and effective participation of Parties and observer organizations, with a view to ensuring that UNFCCC sessions and mandated events are convened at a place where human rights and fundamental freedoms are promoted and protected, and where all participants are effectively protected against any violations or abuses including harassment and sexual harassment.

20. The SBI recommended that the host country designate a focal point to address the issues referred to in paragraph 19 above.

### III. Calendar of future sessions

21. 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.

22. 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.

### IV. Increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process

23. The SBI noted a submission<sup>3</sup> from a number of Parties and one observer organization on approaches to and initiatives for increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process towards enhancing ambition and strengthening implementation.

24. The SBI took note with appreciation of the information paper on past sessions and regional distribution of observer organizations prepared for this session.<sup>4</sup>

25. 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 at the end of 2021, following the postponement of sessions during the pandemic. It took note of the implications of this for the transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness of the process and the implications for the budget and other organizational issues. It noted that improving efficiency is a Party-driven process and requires the collaboration of all actors in the spirit of confidence and trust, and in respect of agreed mandates and balance across agenda items.

26. The SBI took note of the preliminary exchange of views among Parties and observer organizations on opportunities for increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process, including, but not limited to, streamlining the provisional agendas of the governing and subsidiary bodies and encouraging the adoption of the rules of procedure by the COP. It noted that any steps taken in this respect should be an outcome of thorough discussion and agreement among Parties.

27. The SBI invited Parties and observer organizations to submit via the submission portal<sup>5</sup> by 31 March 2024 views on streamlining the provisional agendas of the governing and subsidiary bodies.

28. 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 taking into account the views referred in paragraph 27 above.

---

<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field, type “arrangements for intergovernmental meetings”).

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBI/2023/INF.5.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

29. 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 submissions and the technical paper referred to in paragraphs 27 and 28 above respectively.

## V. Observer engagement

30. The SBI took note of the information on enhancing engagement of observer organizations in the UNFCCC intergovernmental process prepared for this session.<sup>6</sup>

31. 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.

32. The SBI reiterated the urgent need for solutions to improve the representation of observer organizations from developing countries in the UNFCCC process and recalled its encouragement to future COP Presidencies to explore ways to increase the participation of observer organizations, including youth organizations and organizations from developing countries.<sup>7</sup>

33. The SBI acknowledged the increasing number of admitted observer organizations and the associated challenges in meeting their diverse expectations of meaningful engagement and organizing UNFCCC conferences that can accommodate their increasing number and meet their diverse needs.

34. 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 and to uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter and international human rights law and guarantee the integrity, dignity and safety of all observers at UNFCCC conferences.

35. In order to ensure open, inclusive and meaningful observer engagement, while fully preserving and respecting the Party-driven nature of the UNFCCC process, the SBI highlighted the following existing and additional practices and steps for engaging observers that could be considered, subject to the availability of resources and while increasing the participation of observer organizations from developing countries:

- (a) Recommending current and incoming 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) Facilitate the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders with Parties during sessions of the COP, including by enabling them to express their views on substantive issues, while respecting the draft rules of procedure being applied and the Party-driven nature of the UNFCCC process;
  - (iii) Consider developing capacity-building initiatives for observer organizations, including for youth, in the lead-up to sessions;
- (b) Encouraging all Parties to:
  - (i) Remain in plenary meetings to listen to all observer statements;
  - (ii) Consider including, as appropriate, civil society, in particular youth, in their national delegations;

---

<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBI/2023/8, paras. 27–34.

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/SBI/2022/10, para. 170. See also document FCCC/SBI/2021/16, paras. 111 and 114(b)(ii).

(iii) Enhance engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, in particular youth, 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 how to enhance the participation of observers from developing countries in sessions in the light of paragraph 32 above;

(iii) Prepare a technical paper on options for increasing the participation of observer organizations from developing countries, including, but not limited to, providing financial support.

36. The SBI took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraphs 28 and 35(c) above.

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

---