

Report of the Second Online Briefing for Bern II Workshop

9 September 2020, Online

I. Background and Purpose

The Second Online Briefing for Bern II Workshop was held on 9 September 2020 online. The briefing was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) as well as the co-leads of the workshop, Ms. Anne Teller and Ms. Somaly Chan, with the generous support of the Government of Switzerland, and under the guidance of the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (post-2020 framework).

The briefing's objectives were to:

- present key workshop documents¹ so that they do not need to be presented in detail when the workshop finally takes place, allowing for more time to be allocated to discussion and feedback during the workshop; and
- encourage workshop participants to prepare in advance, thereby keeping the momentum going and helping to make the best out of the additional available time.

This report provides a summary of the briefing as well as of the questions, suggestions and recommendations raised by the participants. The suggestions and recommendations from participants will inform the revision of meeting documents and the further organization of the Workshop.

The concept note and the agenda of the briefing is attached to this report in Annex I. The briefing was conducted in English.

All materials including key workshop documents and presentation files for the online briefing are available on UNEP website:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/postponed-bern-2-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020>

II. Attendance

The Bern II workshop is being organized in an inclusive, participatory, transparent and party-driven process. Nearly 90 participants (list attached as Annex III) including the representatives of bureaux/standing committees as previously nominated by chairs of MEA governing bodies, Secretariats of the biodiversity-related MEAs, chemicals and wastes related conventions and Rio conventions, and invited observers from international organizations and NGOs took part in the briefing.

III. Overview of the briefing

UNEP presented an overview of the organization of the Bern II Workshop, progress since the last briefing, and future roadmap. The agenda of the second briefing and presenters were introduced to the participants. The roadmap towards the workshop is attached to this report in Annex II.

The following presentations were made:

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/postponed-bern-2-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020>

1. The Co-chairs of OEWG, Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada), presented the revised zero draft and potential for synergies;
2. Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp from SCBD presented the whole post-2020 framework process and next steps, as well as other related CBD discussion on means of implementation and reporting (for example a document is being prepared on streamlining of reporting across MEAs following COP14 discussion);
3. Ms. Nadia Deckert from UNEP-WCMC presented the background document, which builds on input from convention secretariats in support of the Bern II workshop discussions;
4. The co-leads of the workshop, Ms. Somaly Chan and Ms. Anne Teller, presented the Co-Leads' paper, which focuses on the involvement of MEAs in 1) the co-design of the post-2020 and monitoring frameworks; 2) the implementation, monitoring, reporting and review of the post-2020 framework and 3) the operationalisation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework across multiple conventions and processes.

For details of the presentations above, please visit the Bern II workshop website:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/postponed-bern-2-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020>

IV. Suggestions and comments from participants

Participants welcomed the background document and the draft of the co-leads' paper. They made some suggestions for improvements and provided additional information, which are captured below. The following reflects the suggestions and comments made by participants and is not intended to imply consensus was sort or reached.

A. Overall comments on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- There is the need for a consistent global picture and stocktake of the implementation of the framework and achievement of any goals and targets.
- The science basis of the post-2020 framework should be robust, common and consistent across conventions since it is about the same planet.
- MEA Parties, Secretariats and relevant stakeholders should commit themselves to use the post-2020 framework as a game changer for strengthening joint implementation within countries and demonstrating the ability to work together for the same goals.
- The post-2020 framework should reflect MEA workplans and plans of actions.
- The post-2020 Framework should set a target that is a legally binding obligation of the other MEAs (such as chemicals decisions) to facilitate effective implementation.

B. Synergies at global level across different MEAs

- The Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions (JLG) is finalizing a workplan for coordinated activities among the secretariats to enhance coherent cooperation among and implementation of the respective conventions.
- The CoPs of the Rio conventions will all take place in the last quarter of 2021 and this synchronisation is an opportunity to leverage the post-2020 framework.
- BRS COP is planned to take place in July 2021 and should be a hook to reflect the uptake of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for chemicals and waste clusters in terms of internal coordination and organisation.
- Target linkages on pollution, biodiversity human health and monitoring framework should be analyzed to identify common areas. 15% of biodiversity threats are caused by chemicals and waste. Chemicals are mainly mentioned at the introductions and annex and less in the document.

- Framing key important questions through the political process and negotiation of common milestones in coordination with co-chairs of SAICM and OEWG of post-2020 framework is crucial. SAICM invites biodiversity related MEAs to take lessons from the SAICM fourth meeting of the intersessional process (IP4) documents and establish a virtual Working Group.
- Mainstreaming agenda is related to the synergies.
- A bottom-up (party-driven) approach is necessary to improve synergies at global level.
- The post-2020 framework can be a game changer if MEAs can work together without silos. While some emphasized to focus on the biodiversity-related MEAs, others see the importance of involving other clusters such as climate change and chemicals and waste clusters, which can be discussed at the Bern II Workshop.
- Setting up of a cross-conventions working group comprised of different MEAs' Parties and Secretariats may be considered, but complementarity with existing groups (e.g. EMG) should be highlighted.
- The work being undertaken by the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) is important and useful to make use of an existing body to help the implementation of the convention.

C. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Reporting

- NBSAPs could be a potential powerful tool to promote synergies at national level as planning tool.
- NBSAPs could facilitate the uptake of the post-2020 framework by several MEAs by supporting joint implementation, capacity-building, and reporting and facilitating access to GEF funding.
- Some participants emphasized focusing on the targets that are relevant to achieve synergies and on a target on NBSAPs to promote synergies is important and more effective than adding a dedicated target on synergies. They also advocated for the inclusion of the term connectivity within the post-2020 framework, which is relevant for many MEAs objectives and emphasized the need to get the leadership of MEAs on dedicated targets and indicators.
- A paper on the review mechanisms for the post-2020 framework may be finalized by the end of September in English.
- NBSAPs are planning tools that can be used with other processes in the countries when interacting with focal points of other MEAs. It can be useful to have headline indicators under each target in which countries can report at a global level. Reporting templates should be simple for Parties to easily report on and the information drawn from reporting can be shared at the clearing house mechanisms.
- There have already been discussions to harmonize national reporting with options, including the use of the Data reporting Tool (DaRT). The related document to the CBD SBI-3 is being consulted with relevant stakeholders and will be uploaded on the CBD website soon.

D. Goals, Targets and Indicators

- UNCCD supports 6 biodiversity indicators.
- There is data available from the conventions, which can inform the post-2020 framework targets/indicators. There is an internal report (BRS/SAICM) on linkages and further contribution on the current negotiations, especially the milestones.
- While IPBES global assessment identified that the 3 main pollutants are nutrients, biocides and plastics, other key chemical pollutants should be considered in the post-2020 framework.
- The Ramsar Convention's Strategic Plan is fully aligned to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and its Parties have decided to ensure that the mid-term review will be aligned with the post-2020 framework.
- There is need to be efficient in reporting and use of existing common indicators that can be aligned with SDGs reporting to HLPF.

- MEAs' leadership is needed on relevant targets and indicators. It is important that while the monitoring framework is being developed, it takes into account existing tools and indicators.
- UNDESA has an interagency forum of all SDG custodians. The process is both top-down and bottom-up. Statistical offices' role must be leveraged in harmonising concepts and standardizing indicators across conventions (e.g. UN SEEA standards to be adopted in March 2021) could be profiled and indicator-based reporting upscaled at highest political level (e.g. UNGA).
- Many parties and secretariats voiced the challenge of national reporting burden to different MEAs with some common targets/indicators to report on, and that many reports are not consistent; i.e., there is a clear need to harmonize national reporting and apply synergies in reporting, highlighting DaRT as a tool to ease this burden.

E. Cross-cutting issues

- Gender plan of action can be referenced within DaRT in the global strategy section in addition to the regional strategies and NBSAPs.
- For transformative change, consumption and production patterns is well tracked in chemicals agenda and impacts on biodiversity.
- The connectivity between culture and biodiversity needs to be highlighted.
- Many raised the opportunity of joint reporting on cross cutting issues.

F. Specific suggestions on Bern II Workshop's meeting documents and organization

- Some MEA secretariats and Party representatives have limitations on their mandate for the Bern II workshop and might not be in a position to engage fully in the negotiations on draft texts.
- Clarification on the intended outputs from the workshop was asked (reports, recommendations or separate co-leads' paper).
- Clarification is needed in the Co-leads' paper on references to MEAs representatives i.e. secretariats or governing bodies that represent the parties.
- Some participants expressed the need to narrow down the questions to be discussed at Bern II workshop and focus on concrete proposals for improvement.
- Parties voiced difficulties with many parallel action plans to achieve common targets. How are the global targets to be integrated in parallel to other conventions action plans? This is a burden and should be rectified or clarified in the Bern II Workshop.

V. Way Forward / Next steps

The co-chairs questioned the need for an additional target on cooperation and synergies, and wondered whether progress on synergies couldn't be accounted for through other targets (e.g. Mainstreaming), NBSAPS or other tools? Each of the thematic discussion tends to want to have a specific target on each.

If a target is added on synergies, which one will be removed? Or will parties want to have one additional target? The Co-leads acknowledged that it will be difficult to sell an additional target from what has been agreed. It is important to go through the draft to see whether a standalone target on synergies is needed or if it could be combined with an existing target. Co-leads will reassess it, taking into account that if reporting is not regularly done on what has been achieved, things may not move.

UNEP highlighted that one of the countries added a Target 21 on synergies to the Aichi targets in its own implementation, and that it would be useful to assess how effective this was to advance reporting on cooperation and what can be borrowed from the experience.

In conclusion, there was a call for the adoption of a pragmatic approach when designing the programme of the Bern II workshop, which should focus on concrete actions which wouldn't require negotiations, such as a commitment within the post-2020 framework that NBSAPs should reflect the relevant obligations under different MEAs, alignment of programmatic work, alignment of frameworks, mapping of MEAs' leadership on targets and indicators of GBF, etc.

Clarity was requested on the process following the Bern II workshop: Co-chairs and Co-Leads explained that based on the outcomes of the Bern II workshop discussions, there will be a factual workshop report and a paper from the co-leads that will be brought to the attention of SBI-3 (cf. agenda item 8) with concrete recommendations to be considered for the meeting. The paper will also be handed to the co-chairs of OEWG, who may include some of the inputs when drafting version 1 of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Switzerland added that discussion on the modalities of when and how the workshop will be held are ongoing with the organizer. The plan is to have it sufficiently before SBI-3 meeting for the workshop outcomes to be considered at SBI-3, and that it will take place in either virtual or physical form depending on Covid-19 situation. The decision will be communicated soon.

Annex I: Concept note & Agenda

Second online briefing in preparation for the MEA consultation workshop on post-2020

Objective: The overall aim of this second online briefing is to help ensure an efficient and productive Bern II workshop when it takes place, whether in virtual or face-to-face format. The specific objectives of this second online briefing are to:

- a) present key workshop documents so that they do not need to be presented in detail at the workshop, allowing for more time to be allocated to discussion and feedback; and
- b) encourage the participants to prepare in advance for the discussions at the workshop, thereby keeping the momentum going and helping to make the best out of the additional available time. The online briefing is intended to be informative, and to support preparation for the future workshop. It is not intended as a forum for debate and decision.

Target audience: The target audience for the online briefing is all those who are invited participants of the postponed workshop, i.e. the representatives of Parties as previously nominated by chairs of MEA governing bodies, MEA Secretariats, and invited observers from international organizations and NGOs in a position to provide expert support to the meeting.

Presenters: Those involved in running the online briefing and making presentations will be the two Bern II workshop co-leads (Somaly Chan and Anne Teller), the co-chairs of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Basile van Havre and Francis Ogwal), and representatives of UNEP, the CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC.

Timing: To accommodate participants in different time zones, the briefing will be delivered twice on Wednesday 9 September at 11am NBO (UTC+3) and at 4pm NBO (UTC+3). The two briefings will each last for two and a half hours with the same content.

Outline of the two online briefing sessions: Both sessions chaired/facilitated by UNEP

1.	Welcome and introductory remarks	UNEP	10 mins
2.	Briefing on progress with the post-2020 process, future timetable, and further opportunities for making input through submissions, consultations and negotiations	OEWG co-chairs	15 mins

3.	Briefing on key related CBD-led discussions on enabling activities and the monitoring framework, including relevant preparations for CBD SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3	<i>CBD Secretariat</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
4.	Presentation of the background document prepared to inform workshop participants	<i>UNEP-WCMC</i>	<i>20 mins</i>
5.	Presentation by workshop co-leads of their expectations for the upcoming workshop	<i>Workshop co-leads</i>	<i>25 mins</i>
6.	Opportunity for Q&A and discussion relating to the background document and to the co-leads paper and their expectations (<i>participants will be invited to include their questions and any observations in the 'chat' box during the two presentations, as well as during the Q&A session</i>)	<i>Moderated by UNEP</i>	<i>60 mins</i>
7.	Summary of discussion, and identification of potential follow up actions and how participants might consider preparing for Bern II	<i>UNEP</i>	<i>5 mins</i>
8.	Concluding remarks	<i>UNEP, and others as appropriate</i>	<i>5 mins</i>

Documents for the second online briefing: For the briefing session in March, UNEP made two documents available to participants, a general briefing note on the Bern II workshop and an agenda for the first briefing session. Subsequently UNEP sent a background document to all those on the invitation list for the workshop, and this will be sent out again ahead of the second online briefing. In addition to this concept note and agenda, UNEP will also be sending out a document prepared by the workshop co-leads setting out their expectations of the workshop. If you are missing any relevant documents, please visit the following website:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/postponed-bern-2-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020>

Follow up to the online briefing by participants: The aim of circulating the background document and the co-leads paper well in advance of the workshop is to allow those who participate in the future workshop to prepare well. Other key documents are those being prepared as part of the process for development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which will include several documents in preparation for the upcoming meetings of the CBD subsidiary bodies. It is hoped that following the online briefing, each convention will convene its participants in some manner so that they can share views amongst themselves and confirm their understandings and inputs in advance of the workshop, drawing as necessary on the co-leads paper and other relevant documents. It may also be relevant for some closely related conventions to discuss

together. In this way we can help ensure quicker progress when the workshop ultimately takes place.

Contacts: If you have any inquiries, please contact the following focal points.

- Diane Klaimi, UNEP Law Division (diane.klaimi@un.org)
- Kazuhiko Seriu, UNEP Law Division (kazuhiko.seriun@un.org)

Annex II: Roadmap

Process of preparations for the MEA consultation workshop on post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II) in the inter-sessional period leading to CBD COP 15

January 2020

- UNEP and the Government of Switzerland exchanged a pledged letter and concept
- Save-the-Date Letter and a pre-meeting questionnaire sent to Secretariats of MEAs (biodiversity, chemicals/waste, Rio Conventions).

February 2020

- A draft agenda prepared and consulted with MEAs clusters for inputs.
- Invitation letters were sent to MEAs Secretariats and Parties, Chairs of bureaus/standing committees, consolidated the nominations and started the logistical arrangements.
- The website launched (<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/bern-2-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020-global>).

March 2020

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the originally planned workshop (25 – 27 March) was postponed.

The first online briefing was held on 26 and 27 March to inform the participants of the objectives and organization of the workshop. For this online briefing, a briefing note was circulated to participants.

May 2020

- The background document was prepared in consultation with MEAs for the Bern II workshop and was circulated to participants.

September 2020

- The Co-Lead's Paper was shared with participants
- The second online briefing will take place on 9 September.

January 2021

- The Bern II workshop may be organized in late January 2021, subject to COVID-19.

Annex III: List of Participants

	MORNING SESSION		AFTERNOON SESSION
1	Adriana Moreira	1	Akane Nakamura
2	Akane Nakamura	2	Alessandra Alfieri
3	Ali Chehade	3	Amy Fraenkel
4	Bopreang KEN	4	Anayeli Cabrera Murrieta
5	Brenda Koekkoek	5	Andrej Bibic
6	Claudia ten Have	6	Anna Luise
7	Daniela Guaras	7	Carlos Martin Novella
8	Eric Wiedmer	8	Carolina Caceres
9	Ines Verleye	9	Chantal Robichaud
10	Jacqueline Alvarez	10	Charlotta Sörqvist
11	Jerry Harrison	11	David Morgan
12	Laura Cerasi	12	Doris Rodriguez
13	Lorena Jaramillo	13	Eric Wiedmer
14	Marylene Beau	14	Eriko Nakanishi
15	Mirko Montuori	15	Francis Lopez
16	Mrinalini Rai	16	Gabriele Obermayr
17	Narelle Montgomery	17	Guido Broekhoven
18	Niklaus Wagner	18	Guy Debonnet
19	Santiago Gracia	19	Helena Brown
20	Sarah Smith	20	Joaquin Salzberg
21	Sasha Alexander	21	Julian Chow
22	Sonja Duennwald	22	Katarina Magulova
23	Sophie Bigler	23	Kent Nnadozie
24	Sri Ratnaningsih	24	Lorena Jaramillo
25	Sujit Kumar Bajpayee	25	Ma Keping
26	Tessa Goverse	26	Malta Qwathekana
27	Wasantha Dissanayake	27	Marcel Calvar
28	Yaser Abushanab	28	Maria Cristina Cardenas
		29	Maria Rivera
		30	Marieta Sakalian
		31	Marijana Todorovic
		32	Marina von Weissenberg
		33	Martha Rojas Urrego
		34	Neville Ash
		35	Norbert Barlocher
		36	Ricardo Cano Renteria
		37	Robert Revere
		38	Sandra Meehan
		39	Sonia Peña
		40	Teona Karchava
		41	Tomoko Ichikawa
	PANELISTS / ORGANIZERS		PANELISTS / ORGANIZERS

29	Anne Teller	42	Anne Teller
30	Diane Klaimi	43	Basile Van Havre
31	Francis Meri Sabino Ogwal	44	Diane Klaimi
32	Isaac Kiama	45	Isaac Kiama
33	Jyoti Mathur-Filipp	46	Jerry Harrison
34	Kazuhiko Seriu	47	Jyoti Mathuru-Filipp
35	Nadia Deckert	48	Kazuhiko Seriu
36	Paxon Maina	49	Nadia Deckert
37	Somaly Chan	50	Neil Pratt
38	Tita Korvenoja	51	Paxon Maina
		52	Tita Korvenoja
	COORDINATING TEAM		COORDINATING TEAM
39	Njoki Kibe	53	Njoki Kibe
40	Dorothy Obuya	54	Dorothy Obuya