

Meeting of the 5th Strategic Plan (SP5) Working Group

Thursday 10 October 2024, 13:00 – 16:00 CEST (by videoconference)

Participants

- Working Group members: Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, , Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, , Chair of the STRP, WWT
- Secretariat: Deputy Secretary General, Director Science and Policy
- Consultant: Rob McInnes

Minutes

1. The Co-Chair, Luiz Eduardo Andrade de Souza (Brazil) opened the meeting welcomed participants and indicated he would be chairing the meeting. The Co-Chair informed the Group that the aim of the meeting was to first review the comments received on goals and targets with the ambition to reach consensus on as much bracketed text as possible, followed by the review of the body text of the draft 5th Strategic Plan. The draft resolution would also be discussed if time permitted. Both documents had been shared with Working Group members in advance of the meeting.
2. The Co-Chair noted that comments had been received after the deadline from Mexico and New Zealand and these comments were not reflected in the documents shared with Working Group members in advance of the meeting and that efforts to capture these comments would be made as the meeting progresses. The Co-Chair also noted that comments provided earlier in the consultation process by the United Kingdom were not included in the document and invited the United Kingdom to introduce their suggested amendments during the meeting. Before beginning discussion on the document, the Co-Chair reminded Working Group members that the current goals and targets text had been discussed several times and that he would appreciate if members could keep their comments and interventions specific to the text in brackets and not propose to reopen text that had previously been agreed to.
3. The Group then proceeded to discuss bracketed text for each of the four goals and their targets. Through discussion, flexibility and compromise many brackets were removed. Where consensus was not achieved, it was agreed that brackets would remain and the text would be discussed at either the next Working Group meeting or at SC64.
4. Following a break, the Co-Chair raised three questions that he requested views on from Working Group members. First was the question of how indicators would be developed and included in the Strategic Plan. He proposed that the Working Group request the STRP, in consultation with the consultant, to develop draft indicators based upon the current agreed-upon target text. Given that the indicators would take some time to develop, he further proposed that the indicators be presented to SC64 as an information document that would be annexed to the Strategic Plan at a later date. The Chair of the STRP indicated that the STRP would be happy to provide its support with the aim to have initial draft indicators delivered to the Working Group in early November. There was consensus from the Working Group to move forward as proposed by the Co-Chair.
5. The second question raised by the Co-Chair was how activities would be included in the Plan. The proposal of the Co-Chairs was not to include activities in the 5th Strategic Plan that would be

considered by COP15 and that activities could be identified at a later date in the next triennium. The Co-Chair further shared that by waiting to identify the activities, Contracting Parties would be able to build off of the actual experiences of Parties in implementing the Plan. There was agreement that activities would not be included in the present Strategic Plan and would be identified at a later date.

6. The third question was regarding the timeframe. There were different views on how to refer to the time-bound nature of the SP5. One Contracting Party suggested including the timeframe above the vision, inspired by text from the report. There were differing views about whether the time-bound nature should be removed from targets. The STRP Chair suggested that there could be a separate statement or paragraph that each target has a 2034 timeframe unless otherwise stated. The SP5 Co-Chairs suggested that they come back with proposed wording at the next fifth Strategic Plan working group (SP5WG) meeting.
7. The Co-Chair then proceeded to lead a discussion of the main body text of the draft Strategic Plan with the aim to eliminate bracketed text. Working Group members were able to progress through paragraph seven. It was agreed that a further meeting of the Working Group was needed to continue discussions to eliminate bracketed text and to discuss the draft resolution. It was proposed that this meeting take place in the first half of November noting the importance of finalizing the draft Strategic Plan and resolution such that it could be published and available to Parties in advance of SC64.
8. The Co-Chair closed the meeting, thanking members for their cooperative spirit and flexibility during the meeting, expressing that while there was work still to be done, much was accomplished during the meeting.