

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

Wednesday 13 November 2024, 18.00 – 21:00 CET (by videoconference)

Participants

- Working Group members: Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Chair of the STRP, WWT
- Secretariat: Deputy Secretary General

Minutes

1. The Co-Chair, ZuZu Gadallah (Canada), opened the meeting, welcomed participants, and indicated she would be chairing this final meeting of the Working Group before SC64. She expressed that finding a meeting time convenient for all Parties was difficult and appreciated the participation of those Parties for whom it was either early or late in the day. The Co-Chair introduced the agenda, which was adopted by the Group.
2. The Co-Chair introduced the draft report to SC64, noting that comments received in writing following the meeting of 10 September had been incorporated into the report. She then led a paragraph-by-paragraph discussion of the proposed changes to the report with the Group. The report was approved by the Group, noting that the Co-Chairs would add a paragraph(s) to reflect the outcomes and agreements of the present meeting before submitting the report to the Secretariat.
3. The Group then reviewed the draft resolution, discussing proposed amendments and bracketed text. A number of brackets were removed, with some new text introduced by members. Where bracketed text remained, the Group agreed that discussion would continue at SC64 to remove remaining brackets. The Co-Chairs indicated the draft resolution would be transmitted to the Secretariat for review, following the guidance found in SC63 Doc.21.3, before publishing the draft resolution in the three languages.
4. The Co-Chair proposed two alternatives to address the interest of members to have the time-bound nature of targets articulated in the Strategic Plan. Agreement was reached on including a new paragraph under Strategic Goals and Targets section of the Plan that would read, "All the goals and targets of the 5th Strategic Plan are intended to be time-bound and achieved no later than 2034." One member requested more time to consider the proposal.
5. Reference to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) was discussed following earlier agreement to table discussion on IPLCs following CBD COP16. It was suggested by a member that Parties needed time to consider the outcomes from COP16 in regard to IPLCs role to enhance their participation and that discussion on how IPLCs would be addressed in the Strategic Plan would be discussed at SC64.
6. The Co-Chair led a paragraph-by-paragraph discussion of the main body of the draft Strategic Plan (paragraphs 8 – 23) where comments had been provided following the 10 September meeting and where brackets remained from earlier discussions. A number of brackets were removed, with agreement reached on continuing discussion on bracketed text at SC64.

7. The Chair of the STRP was invited to present the draft indicators prepared by the STRP following the request made by the Working Group at the 10 October meeting. The Chair of the STRP explained the approach taken, noting that the indicator framework was developed to present indicators at two levels, Goal Indicators and Target Indicators, and that the indicators contain a balance of outcome indicators and process indicators. The Chair of the STRP noted that the framework was partially complete and did not yet include any indicators for Goal 4, and that further review and alignment of the indicators is proposed to ensure the proposed indicators are streamlined, consistent where appropriate with indicators applied in the 4th Strategic Plan, and to enhance alignment with other international reporting processes, particularly the indicator framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Members then discussed next steps in developing indicators, noting that the 21 October 2024 deadline has passed for submission of the draft Plan to SC64, and that submission of the draft Strategic Plan should not be delayed while the indicators were further developed. It was proposed and agreed that the preliminary document would be shared as an information document for SC64. It was further proposed and agreed that the STRP would further refine the indicators, including developing indicators for Goal 4, at their upcoming STRP27 meeting scheduled for 2 – 5 December. Following that meeting, the STRP would prepare a revised information document that would be published in advance of the Pre-SC64 Regional meetings.
9. Members expressed appreciation to the STRP for both the work done on indicators with a very short timeline as well as the support of the STRP during the overall development of the new Strategic Plan.
10. Next steps were discussed with agreement that the draft report to SC64 with a paragraph(s) reflecting the present meeting, the draft resolution, and the draft Strategic Plan would be transmitted to the Secretariat to be translated and published as SC64 Doc.11 for discussion by Contracting Parties at the upcoming Pre-SC64 Regional meetings and then further discussion at SC64. The Secretariat noted that consideration of the draft Strategic Plan is scheduled for the opening day of plenary (Tuesday, 21 January) and that Working Group members and interested Parties would have the opportunity to continue negotiations and resolve bracketed text during the week of SC64.
11. 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 and that she looked forward to continuing the work at SC64.