



United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Rules of procedure

The [rules of procedure](#) for the CBD apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) convened in accordance with article 23 of the Convention – which establishes and sets out the duties of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

Topics covered in the Rules of Procedure include:

- Place, date and quorum of meetings; (Rules 3–5)
- Governmental and non-governmental observers; (Rules 6–7)
- Preparation and timing of the dissemination of the agenda (Rules 8–15)
- Meeting officers; (Rules 21–25)
- Subsidiary bodies and the secretariat; (Rules 26–28)
- Conduct of business; (Rules 29–38)
- Voting; (Rules 39–51)
- Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement by consensus (Rule 40)
- As a last resort, decisions may be made by a two-thirds vote of Parties present and voting, with the proviso that on issues of process, only a majority vote is required (Rule 40)

NB: It should be noted that CBD Article 23, para 3 requires that the rules of procedure must be adopted by consensus, as well as financial rules governing the funding of the secretariat.

Key External Partnerships

Since its inception, Parties to the CBD have recognised the role that outside organisations and stakeholders play in helping to implement the provisions of the CBD.

Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan seeks broader engagement across society in the implementation of the CBD and is supported by Objective 4.4: “key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies.”

The list of relevant organisations and stakeholder groups partners is organised by:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▪ UN and other Intergovernmental organisations | ▪ Scientific and technical assessment bodies |
| ▪ NGOs and civil society | ▪ Industry and the private sector |
| ▪ Indigenous organisations | ▪ Children and youth organisations |

Thematic Programmes

The CBD COP established seven thematic programmes of work (listed below) which correspond to some of the major biomes on the planet. Each programme establishes a vision for, and basic principles to guide future work. They also set out key issues for consideration, identify potential outputs, and suggest a timetable and means for achieving these. Implementation of the work programmes depends on contributions from Parties, the secretariat, relevant intergovernmental and other organisations. Periodically, the COP and the SBSTTA review the state of implementation of the work programmes:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Agricultural Biodiversity | ▪ Island Biodiversity |
| ▪ Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity | ▪ Marine and Coastal Biodiversity |
| ▪ Forest Biodiversity | ▪ Mountain Biodiversity |
| ▪ Inland Waters Biodiversity | |

This factsheet on the [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 6–13