



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

1st Skype meeting (in 2021) of the Bureau of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
Tuesday 20 April 2021, from 1:30 pm to 2:10 pm

Bureau members

Chair: Mr Adepoju Olatunde Adeshola (Group V A)

Vice-chairs:

Austria (Group I): serving also as the Rapporteur: Mr Günter Köck

Russian Federation (Group II): Mr Valery M. Neronov

Peru (Group III): Mr Pedro Gamboa Moquillaza (Absent)

Kazakshtan (Group IV): Ms Viktoriya Ilina

Sudan (Group V B): Mr Adil Mohamed Ali (Absent)

MAB Secretariat:

Mr Miguel Clüsener-Godt, MAB Secretary

Ms Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa

Ms Meriem Bouamrane

Ms Marie Prchalova

Mr Bandiougou Diawara

Ms Elsa Sattout from UNESCO Cairo office

Ms Martha Vogel

Ms Sima Taheri-Gauter

Ms Patricia Ramé

Ms Sandrine Baron

Ms Amandine Callens

Ms Donara Sydeeva

1. The first meeting of the Bureau of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) was held through Skype for Business on 20 April 2021.

2. A total of four MAB Bureau Members attended the meeting, the Chair from Nigeria, representatives of Austria, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. The representatives of Peru and Sudan were absent. Twelve participants from the UNESCO Secretariat attended the meeting including one colleague of the UNESCO office in Cairo.

3. The full list of participants is presented at the beginning of this report.
4. The meeting was opened by the MAB Secretary, Mr Miguel Clüsener-Godt, who informed the Bureau members about the change on the representatives of Kazakhstan and Sudan. In order to avoid the conflict of interest, Mr Roman Jashenko will remain member of the Advisory Committee on his personal capacity and Ms Viktoriya Ilina will be the representative of Kazakhstan at the Bureau of MAB-ICC. For the same reason Ms Salwa Mansour Abdel Hameed will remain member of the Advisory Committee on her personal capacity and Mr Adil Mohamed Ali will be the representative of Sudan at the Bureau of MAB-ICC.
5. The MAB Secretary informed about the provisional agenda that has been prepared for the 33rd session of the MAB-ICC and the summary outcomes of the 27th Meeting of Advisory Committee which have been communicated to the Bureau members prior to the meeting and attached to this report.
6. The MAB Secretary gave the floor to the Chair of the MAB-ICC.

Introduction by the Chair of the MAB-ICC

7. The meeting was chaired by Mr Adepoju Olatunde Adeshola who thanked the Bureau members for their presence and the MAB Secretariat for the organization of this first meeting in 2021 and the preparation of the agenda. He recalled that this meeting will be exclusively dedicated to the change of date for the 33rd session of the MAB-ICC in 2021 originally planned in June in Abuja.

Adoption of the Agenda

8. The Bureau members of the MAB-ICC adopted the agenda with the only item focused on the date of the 33rd session of the MAB-ICC in view of the current sanitary situation.
9. The Chair pointed out that given the sanitary situation in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world, the holding of a physical meeting will be compromised in June. A date in September is more reasonable allowing the vaccination campaign to be improved and participants to have the permission to travel.
10. The Chair mentioned also that given the item dedicated to the Exit Strategy, it is better to hold the meeting at a later stage in presential, allowing concerned countries to attend the MAB-ICC.
11. The Chair gave the floor to the Bureau members to express their point of view.
12. Austria fully supported the proposal of postponement of the meeting. He mentioned that this 33rd Session of the MAB-ICC will be the first one in Africa and we should keep the option of full presence rather than adopting a hybrid or virtual meeting.

13. The Russian Federation mentioned that it is reasonable to postpone the meeting to September.

14. Kazakhstan supported also this option of postponement saying that this will allow us to have more time to prepare the events related to the 50th Anniversary of the MAB Programme.

15. After discussion with the Bureau members in attendance and the information provided by the MAB Secretariat, the postponement to September 2021 has been unanimously adopted.

16. The Chair thanked the Bureau members and asked them if they had any question or suggestion about the provisional agenda of the 33rd session of the MAB-ICC.

17. The MAB Secretary stated that we should communicate to MAB-ICC members about the decision of the Bureau Members regarding the postponement of the 33rd session of the MAB-ICC sending them the provisional agenda of the meeting.

18. Kazakhstan asked about more details on the youth events planned on day 4 of the attached agenda.

19. Ms Noëline Raondry-Rakotoarisoa mentioned that the last day of the MAB-ICC will be exclusively dedicated to youth. She also specified that MAB Secretariat is working with UNESCO field offices and the Biosphere Reserves Network in order to identify specific events such as workshops, exhibitions, and best practices.

20. Austria asked for the possibility to organize an excursion in Abuja.

21. The Chair replied that an excursion to sites within Abuja can be organized.

22. The MAB Secretary took the floor. He reminded the Bureau members that he will be retiring from UNESCO end of June 2021.

23. The Chair thanked everybody for the organization of this short, precise and straight to the point meeting and closed the meeting.