



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Man and
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Programme

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

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

Monday 23 March 2020, from 11:00 am to 11:45

Chair: Ms Enny Sudarmonowati (Group IV)

Vice-chairs:

Sweden (Group I) serving also as the Rapporteur: Ms Johanna Mac Taggart

Estonia (Group II): Mr Toomas Kokovkin

Honduras (Group III): Mr Carlos Madariaga

Nigeria (Group V A): Mr Adepoju Olatunde Adeshola

Sudan (Group V B): Ms Salwa Mansour Abdel Hameed

MAB Secretariat:

Mr Miguel Clüsener-Godt, MAB Secretary

Mr Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa

Ms Meriem Bouamrane

Ms Marie Prchalova

Mr Bandiougou Diawara

Ms Maria Rosa Cardenas Tomazic

Mr Peter Dogse

Ms Sima Taheri-Gauter

Ms Amandine Callens

The meeting was opened by the MAB Secretary, Mr Miguel Clüsener-Godt, and chaired by Ms Enny Sudarmonowati. The main item of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming 32nd session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) to be held in Abuja, Nigeria from 22 to 26 June 2020, in view of the current situation.

The MAB Secretary informed that the Advisory Committee took place in February and the final report with Advisory Committee's recommendations to MAB-ICC has been finalized by MAB Secretariat. It will be sent for the rapporteur's approval during this week.

After a brief introduction made by the MAB Secretary on the current situation and latest update provided by MAB Secretariat, Ms Meriem Bouamrane informed on the postponement of some of the key meetings of CBD and IUCN which are not scheduled before end of August 2020; then, the Chair informed on the latest development concerning the Covid-19 in Indonesia and in the world as it has spread to over 180 countries.

The Chair pointed out that the MAB Bureau shall decide to postpone the 32nd session of the MAB-ICC originally planned for the third week of June 2020. Mr Adepoju Olatunde Adeshola briefed that Nigeria

stands ready to hold the meeting but remains flexible due to current circumstances. He proposed that end of August 2020 might be feasible.

After discussion with all Bureau members and the information provided by the MAB Secretariat to consider that end of August will probably be too early, it has been unanimously decided that the 32nd session of MAB-ICC will be postponed after September 2020. Mr Adeshola confirmed that this will be still feasible for Nigeria. However, the exact date will depend on the choice of dates for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the UNESCO Executive Board and other key meetings that will be organized in the last months of the year. The MAB Secretariat also highlighted that the MAB-ICC is a UN meeting and as such, it has to be in conformity with UN rules relevant for the situation of the concerned country. This will be indeed taken into account.

It has been also decided to update the MAB webpage on MAB-ICC postponement and hold the sending of invitations. In addition an information note will be prepared and sent to MAB-ICC members and delegations to announce that due to the current Covid-19 health crisis and following the decision of the Bureau of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the 32nd session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the MAB Programme (MAB-ICC) will be postponed until later this year in 2020 when conditions will be favourable. The new dates will be announced as soon as possible.

The Bureau members were also briefed on the Mid-term Evaluation of the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan (LAP) and the Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR) development process.

Concerning LAP and MAB Strategy evaluation, an on-line survey among key stakeholders and beneficiaries has been put in place. The MAB Secretariat will be interviewed next week.

The TGBR development process continues as planned and Mr Petr Čupa has been hired as consultant to prepare a draft document on the TGBR based on the work of TSG's members. The first draft will be ready for Bureau's comments by the end of May 2020.

The next Skype meeting has been scheduled to be held on 6 April 2020 at the same time i.e. 11 am Paris time. A skype invitation will be sent at a later stage.