



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme

SC-21/Bureau 2
Paris, 17 June 2021
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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

2nd Skype meeting (in 2021) of the Bureau of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Thursday 17 June 2021, from 3 pm to 4 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 (Absent)

Peru (Group III): Ms Rosario Barrera – Hidalgo

Kazakhstan (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 Martha Vogel

Ms Sima Taheri-Gauter

Ms Patricia Ramé

Ms Sandrine Baron

Ms Yolanda Cristina Lopez-Maldonado

Mr Yangbo Kim

1. The second 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 17 June 2021.

2. A total of four MAB Bureau Members attended the meeting; the Chair from Nigeria, representatives of Austria, Kazakhstan and Peru. The representatives of Russian Federation and Sudan were absent. Eleven participants from the UNESCO Secretariat attended the meeting.

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.
5. The MAB Secretary informed about the provisional agenda that has been prepared for the 33rd session of the MAB-ICC along with the To-Do list. He mentioned that Ms Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa is officially in charge of the organization of the 33rd session of the MAB-ICC. The MAB Secretary also informed about the outcomes of the 27th Meeting of Advisory Committee which have been communicated to the countries.
6. The MAB Secretary provided an update on the preparation of the MAB-Council in Nigeria by MAB Secretariat. Even if the Covid situation cannot be controlled, we are advancing on a day-by-day basis.
7. As previously discussed the dates are 13 to 17 September 2021. The Invitation letters will be sent out to the MAB-ICC members by the end of the month. The session itself will be in hybrid as a presential session will not be possible at 100% for everyone.
8. The MAB Secretariat is looking for a platform and the time zone which will be convenient for all participants will be from 11 am to 3 pm. Bureau meetings will be held prior to the MAB-ICC session on 9 and 10 September and Bureau members will have access to the dossiers prior to the Bureau meeting. This Bureau meeting will be the last one before the MAB-ICC and during the MAB-ICC there will be no need to held a Bureau meeting.
9. The documents for the MAB-ICC will be online by 13 August at the latest. It will be a paperless session with no paper distribution in Abuja for sanitary reasons.
10. Four side events are planned. The first one will be dedicated to the Biopalt project. The second one will be dedicated to the Ecosystem restauration decade. The third one is about Peace in Biosphere Reserves organized by the Republic of Korea. This topic has a particular importance for the Korean peninsula, as Biosphere Reserves are important for creating and fostering peace whenever we can. The last side event is devoted to youth.
11. Ms Noëline Raondry-Rakotoarisoa recalled that this year is the 50th anniversary of MAB and we would like to showcase the good practices and activities ongoing on the countries at this special occasion. For this reason, MAB Secretariat is working with UNESCO field offices and the Biosphere Reserves Network.
12. After this update on the preparation of the upcoming MAB-ICC, the MAB Secretary gave the floor to the Chair of the MAB-ICC.

13. 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 meeting and the preparation of the 33rd session of MAB-ICC.

14. The Chair pointed out that several meetings have been held with the Nigerian government about the organization of the MAB-ICC. An excursion can be envisaged from Abuja to go to a gorilla reserve for the last day of MAB-ICC.

15. The Chair gave the floor to the Bureau members to express their point of view.

16. Austria fully supported the proposal of visiting a gorilla reserve in Nigeria and asked how many delegates can attend the meeting in presential.

17. The Chair replied that all delegates who are willing to come to Nigeria are welcome. The government is well informed about the MAB-ICC and the President approved the organization of the meeting in Abuja.

18. Austria mentioned that he will be attending the meeting in presential with a certificate of vaccination. Austria asked for the country reports to be sent prior to the MAB-ICC in order to be put online for consultation.

19. Ms Noëline Raondry-Rakotoarisoa mentioned that this is foreseen and there is a deadline for the national reports to be sent to the MAB Secretariat to allow us to process it. The session during the MAB-ICC will be dedicated to regional and thematic reports only. These national reports will be accessible online with all documents.

20. Peru mentioned that the information provided by the Biosphere Reserves should be disseminated through the regional report. She agreed with the side events and the whole way we are presenting them.

21. Ms Noëline Raondry-Rakotoarisoa said that MAB Secretariat is still reflecting on the side events and their format in order to allow everyone to see and enjoy them.

22. Kazakhstan added that in the previous discussion we had the information that IUCN Congress will be held from 3 to 11 September and some countries will be absent for MAB-ICC because of the time zone conflict that will prevent them to attend.

23. The MAB Secretary reminded the fact that MAB-ICC Bureau took into consideration IUCN congress dates in order to find a suitable date for the 33rd MAB-ICC. As we will have other meetings in September and October such as UNESCO Executive Board, COP15 and in November UNESCO General conference, the dates we agreed in September are the most suitable dates. Even if there will be an overlap, we cannot arrange further.

24. Ms Noëline Raondry-Rakotoarisoa reminded that we already discussed the dates. IUCN Congress will end on 11 September and MAB-ICC will start on 13. Therefore, there will not be an overlap.

25. Austria mentioned that all countries can have a couple of experts to attend both meetings and recommended to not change the dates.

26. The Chair replied that the day we reached this agreement, many colleagues approved. It is tough to change it now and we keep the dates.

27. Peru mentioned that the dates are fine with her and we keep them.

28. Kazakhstan agreed that we keep the dates.

29. The MAB Secretary reminded that this is the best compromise and added that Bureau members will be welcome to attend the MAB-ICC.

30. Ms Noëline Raondry-Rakotoarisoa added that the Mr Dimitri Sanga, Director of UNESCO Dakar office is assuring the interim for Abuja office. MAB Secretariat is in touch with colleagues in Abuja as well as the MAB National Committee in Nigeria and the Nigerian ministries for the organization of the meeting.

31. Ms Meriem Bouamrane added that IUCN Congress dates are not in conflict with MAB-ICC and UNESCO will focus its events from 4 to 8 September with a forum and a pavilion with 4 workshops. Therefore, it will be feasible for delegates to attend both meetings. Ambassadors from the MAB Bureau are invited to deliver key messages for Biosphere Reserves.

32. The MAB Secretary emphasised that it will be good if members of the Bureau can attend the IUCN meetings to raise the flagship of MAB.

33. The MAB Secretary reminded the Bureau members that he will be retiring from UNESCO end of June 2021 and thanked Bureau members for this wonderful job. He said that we will start the second 50th years of the programme MAB even if we are facing other problems. He added that after 31 years in UNESCO it is time to handover to younger people. ADG/SC orally confirmed that Noeline Raondry-Rakotoarisoa will assure the interim for MAB Secretary and for the position of Director of division. He mentioned that the work will continue and he will continue working with Biosphere Reserves from outside UNESCO.

34. Peru thanked the MAB Secretary for the wonderful job that he realized for the MAB programme and specially for having organized the MAB-ICC in Peru. She also thanked the MAB Secretary for the great job achieved for IBEROMAB, speaking for Mr Pedro Gamboa.



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35. The Chair mentioned that MAB Secretariat is a family that will miss one of his great member. He added that we will continue working together within the programme that Miguel started. He wished the best for the MAB Secretary and invited him to come to Nigeria.

36. Ms Noëline Raondry-Rakotoarisoa took the floor to thank the MAB Secretary in the name of all colleagues, for his work, contribution and friendship. She added that the Programme led by somebody like him, very knowledgeable, avoided us to do mistakes. It was important for us to have this Bureau meeting.

37. Ms Marie Prchalova joined her words and stated that it was a great pleasure to have Miguel as a chief.

38. Kazakhstan also thanked the MAB Secretary for his kind support and wished him the best.

39. Finally the entire MAB-Bureau members thanked the MAB Secretary for his contribution throughout all these years spent at the MAB Programme and wished him all the best for the future.

40. The Chair thanked everybody for the organization of this meeting and closed the meeting.