

Thank you Mr/Mrs Chair,

Norway will in this statement specifically address goal A.

Norway would like to underline the importance of addressing and implementing Strategic Goal A of the Strategic Plan, recalling the message from the high level panel stating that implementing the other Goals would benefit from positive results in implementing Goal A.

Norway acknowledges the ongoing initiatives addressing Strategic Goal A, including The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) and the United Nations System of Economic-Environmental Accounting (SEEA) and the planned work on testing experimental ecosystem accounts. We appreciate the Secretariat's active involvement in this work.

We would in particular like to congratulate the ES for enhancing the collaboration with the UN-statistical division. The ES has an important role in promoting the CBD agenda and keeping the momentum on biodiversity at the global level, as this gives us room for working towards improved mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors at national level.

The TEEB project has given us all improved knowledge and also a new approach for underlining the importance of biodiversity for human well-being. Norway has taken one important step for advancing this work at the national level. Recently, an expert commission delivered their independent report assessing the values of ecosystem services in Norway in order to improve the basis for decision making across sectors. A broad hearing process is now ongoing and central policy recommendations will be formalized following this process. In our intervention under Goal D we will give some more information on this work.

Recognizing the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity considerations across government and society, the seventh Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity held in May earlier this year focused on the means for addressing goal A of the Strategic Plan, in partnership with and as proposed by the CBD Secretariat. As also stated by the co-chair of the conference, Tone Solhaug, the participants, deliberately chosen from both the biodiversity and economic planning sectors, considered ways in which biodiversity contributes to a sustainable society, and the ways in which a careful alignment and mix of policies, incentives and business strategies can help deliver development pathways that lead to a more sustainable society.

Norway fully agrees that good implementation of the strategic plan is our main task at present. We need to learn from each other and develop structures where the learning and sharing of experiences can be as optimal as possible. We therefore propose that we start to explore how a voluntary review mechanism can be developed suited for our needs.

In our view the intention of the voluntary review-mechanism is to provide targeted guidance on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for individual Parties. The review mechanism will not give grades on the implementation nor rank Parties with regard to implementation.

We therefore propose that considerations of developing such a review mechanism should be included in the draft recommendations of this meeting. The Ex.sec should be asked to explore options for proposing terms of reference for such a mechanism, drawing on experiences from other relevant mechanisms (e.g. the OECD environment performance review, UNECE environment performance review).

Thank you Mr/Mrs Chair