Preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Notification 2019-008 - Submission by Brazil

In the capacity of one of the most megadiverse countries and a major exporter of agricultural and livestock products, during the past decades Brazil has developed a sound policy framework in which the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the sharing of benefits of the utilization of genetic resources are all well considered. Brazil can thus share many successful examples regarding the full implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and greatly contribute to the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that takes into account the expected ambitions and reflects the realities and needs of Parties, with the engagement of different actors, including the private sector.

Further to the initial views submitted in December 2018, Brazil would like to propose the following considerations on the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

*Realistic goals and targets taking into consideration different circumstances of Parties*

The Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework should aim at the establishment of targets commensurate with the different realities and needs of the Parties.

*Level of ambition*

The level of ambition should take into account the progress achieved in the current 2011-2020 plan. It is not feasible to adopt goals and target that go beyond the capacity of countries, especially in the absence of proper means of implementation.

*Balanced approach to the three objectives of the Convention*

The objectives of the Convention - (i) the conservation of biological diversity; (ii) the sustainable use of its components and (iii) the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources - should be considered in a balanced way for future biodiversity targets.

*Aichi targets and GBOs – lessons to be learned*

The construction of new targets should take the experience of the Aichi Goals into consideration, as well as the results of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 and especially of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, which are to be published in March 2020, prior to COP 15, as lessons to be learned in the process of elaborating the next biodiversity framework.

*Clear, measurable and well-defined goals and targets based on scientific evidence*

Goals and targets should be grounded in science and knowledge, following the SMART – specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound – approach, and adapted to national needs and characteristics and easily translatable into national policies.

*Alignment with other biodiversity conventions and the 2030 Agenda*

It is essential that the new biodiversity targets be aligned with other biodiversity conventions and reflect the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The connection between biodiversity and the SDGs is latent when we look at issues such as food and nutritional security, energy security, innovation, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, innovation, life on earth, partnerships to achieve goals, among other aspects. The link between those targets and the SDGs must enhance the mutual understanding of such objectives (mutual supportiveness between the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the SDG and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

*Mainstreaming biodiversity into productive sectors*

The role of industry and innovation cannot be excluded from the goals. On the contrary, it should be emphasized in that it can foster innovative solutions that address the challenges of conservation, sustainable use and access to genetic resources. Biodiversity conservation needs to be seen as a positive drive of economic and social development.

*Involvement of private sector*

The potential to promote win-win actions and stimulate the achievement of biodiversity goals, in line with the SDGs, must necessarily consider the role of the private sector.

*Avoidance of generic expressions*

It is advisable to avoid the use of generic expressions without causal link to the objectives of the Convention, not based on scientific evidence and difficult to measure, such as: perverse subsidies, planetary boundaries, sustainable lifestyles, socio-economic impacts, among others.

*Emphasis on means of implementation*

The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework needs to be linked to an ambitious and effective funding strategy, including the scaling up of mobilization of financial resources and developing alternative mechanisms. The Global Environment Facility should continue to support projects to implement the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols. However, it is desirable that other mechanisms be linked to the future post-2020 Framework, especially funding projects aimed at implementing specific targets.

*Protocols - Consideration of peer review, SBSTTA and SBI*

It is fundamental that specific plans, goals, targets or objectives related to Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols within the post-2020 agenda are submitted to Parties for peer reviews as well as to the consideration of SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3 prior to the final submission for COP-15.

As a major exporter of agricultural products, for Brazil it is crucial that future biodiversity goals do not prejudge and label productive systems by defining agroecology and organic production as the only possible sustainable systems. The coexistence of all productive systems, in fact, is the approach that should guide the required transformational change to a world in which both biodiversity and food security are safeguarded. The definition of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in China in 2020 needs to include agriculture and livestock production in tune with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use rather than as an inherent vector of impacts.

In this light, Brazil would also like to express concerns regarding document CBD / POST2020 / PREP / 1 / INF / 1 Annex, as it contains elements that may be detrimental to productive sectors, particularly agriculture, and which may not necessarily bring effective gains to biodiversity, such as:

* In item (b) Ecosystems and habitats, sub-item 1) By 2030, have coherent policies introduced for all land use purposes with a view to intensify land use with the use of financial incentives.

*Brazil disagrees with this suggestion as land use intensification reduces the need for new areas and land use change with deforestation. The increase in Brazilian agricultural production was only possible due to the intensification of land use, which allowed the expansion of food supply with reduced deforestation.*

* In item (b) Ecosystems and habitats, sub-item 4) Clear all deforestation and conversion of natural habitat by 2030.

*Brazil is of the view that there should be a clear distinction between “legal” and “illegal” deforestation and thus advocates the elimination of* illegal *deforestation. Market mechanisms may be used to complement the conservation efforts carried out by farmers who, by virtue of law, may be required to maintain a legal reserve in private properties for preservation purposes.*

* In item (e) Indirect losses in biodiversity, sub-item 1) By 2030, 95% of the agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry products from certified sustainable sources.

*Brazil disagrees with this suggestion, since certification systems play a significant role in certain markets. Their proliferation, however, can be a major concern for developing countries, as some of them do not necessarily take into account the diversity of local realities, nor have criteria defined on the basis on scientific evidence. The particularities of developing countries, especially those that export agricultural products, should be viewed with caution as certifications may increase costs of production and are detrimental to small-scale farmers.*