**India’s preliminary and initial views in response to CBD notification 2019-008 dated 30 January 2019 relating to post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

1. The concern relating to biodiversity conservation in the face of its continuing loss is universal, even as all Parties have been contributing their bit to address the challenge. Despite this, we seem to be way behind in achieving most of the 2020 targets. As a result, many Aichi targets may also meet the same fate as 2010 biodiversity target, which was not met by the global community. Hence, strong and transformative action towards biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of the same is required, in the context of post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

2. The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 agreed to by Parties in 2010 (‘Living in harmony with nature, whereby by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintain ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people’) which has played an important role in enhancing awareness and galvanising action, remains relevant beyond 2020 and should be considered in any follow-up to the Strategic Plan, even though the Strategic Plan and its Aichi biodiversity targets have a timeframe till 2020 (or 2015 in a few cases). This is because effecting meaningful and worthwhile changes to the status of biodiversity is a long-term endeavour and an iterative process, and the Aichi targets are only a milestone and not the end points in a longer process of halting the loss of biodiversity.

3. The 2050 Vision is complementary to and consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2050 Vision for biodiversity also has important synergies with some other relevant global frameworks, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions towards Paris Agreement on Climate Change. According to IPCC 2014 and the IPCC special report 2018, a large fraction of biodiversity will face the threat of extinction due to climate change before the end of the century. This is very relevant in the context of 2050 Vision for biodiversity. The adverse impact of climate change on biodiversity will be exacerbated by socio-economic pressure and degradation. A good understanding of the inter-relationship between climate change and socio-economic pressure/stresses impacting biodiversity is very critical to address both climate change and biodiversity loss.

4. Plausible pathways to the 2050 Vision will require fundamental and transformational changes in many aspects of economies and societies, but there are a number of obstacles to achieving transformational change including those related to economy, human behaviour and institutional issues.

5. The lifestyle change pathway with focus on reduced consumption and behavioural change in institutions and individuals inter alia through the choice of a less energy and material-intensive lifestyle would have a significant positive impact on biodiversity. Pursuing comparatively greener consumption patterns would ensure that growth and development need not come at the cost of our green assets. Investing in biodiversity makes both ecological and economic sense.

6. Notwithstanding the concern on the rather limited progress made so far in attainment of Aichi targets, despite the actions taken by Parties, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has played an important role in galvanizing action and raising awareness. Hence, the post-2020 framework should build on the progress made on Aichi biodiversity targets by developing targets which are few in number but SMART (specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound) in character.

7. The post-2020 biodiversity framework must have coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and may also be linked with Paris Climate Agreement, UNCCD’s Land Degradation Neutrality Goal, UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, and Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

8. The framework must be implementable. It must recognise the crucial link between biodiversity and poverty eradication, especially by addressing the most vulnerable and marginalised populations. The framework must also recognise the link between biodiversity and ecosystem services – clean air, water and soil.

9. The preparatory process for post-2020 global biodiversity framework has to be participatory, inclusive, comprehensive, transformative, catalytic, knowledge-based, transparent and iterative. The key information sources could include inputs from Parties, national reports, NBSAPs, GBO-5, assessments of IPBES and IPCC, and voluntary national reviews to the HLPF on SDGs.

10. Some kind of tracking mechanism for reviewing the progress may be incorporated in the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

11. Reliable sources of funding are critical for the success of any plan. Inadequate means of implementation including financial resources, scientific and technological cooperation, as technology transfer have been the major impediments so far in achieving CBD’s objectives. This therefore calls us to be more pragmatic than utopian when planning for post-2020 framework.

12. The next strategic plan therefore must be fully backed by strong commitments and support for its implementation. This is also because countries rich in biodiversity with global hotspots are already investing significantly for even maintaining and holding on to this biodiversity. Further, poverty eradication and equity remains the foremost overriding national priority for many countries with large population of poor people.

13. The post-2020 biodiversity framework therefore must integrate the means of implementation and resource mobilization in the framework which must include provisions for financing biodiversity actions, scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer, since these have been the major obstacles so far in achieving the Aichi biodiversity targets.

14. The post-2020 framework must appropriately address all the three objectives of the Convention in a balanced manner. Further, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework must integrate the targets for the two protocols of CBD as well.

15. Commitments under processes other than CBD that are relevant to Aichi targets (notably INDCs to the Paris Climate Agreement), need to be taken into account not only when establishing or reviewing their national targets under the Convention, but also when implementing, monitoring and reporting on these targets.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*