

**UNEA-5 VIRTUAL SIDE-EVENT: STRENGTHENING NON-STATE ACTOR COMMITMENTS FOR BIODIVERSITY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Side event organized by the Governments of China and Egypt, together with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**18 February 2021, 5- 6:30 p.m. (Nairobi Time)/ 9 – 10.30 a.m. EST**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**I. Background**

1. The Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People<sup>1</sup> is an initiative spearheaded by the Governments of China and Egypt, with support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The purpose is to build engagement with non-State actors to inform, inspire and showcase voluntary commitments, raising awareness on the urgency, ambition and actions to reduce the drivers of loss of biodiversity and shift toward nature's positive outcomes, within this decade.
2. As a non-negotiated solution space, the Action Agenda profiles commitments from all types of non-State actors, in support of the three objectives of the Convention, helping to catalyse integrated actions, partnerships and impact. The Action Agenda aims to encourage and boost positive ambition loops between countries and non-state actors– to influence more ambition from the bottom and the top, and the reverse.
3. Given the interconnections and underpinning of biodiversity in economic, social, and ecological systems, as the infrastructure supporting life on Earth, the Action Agenda also seeks to build awareness on commitments and actions that promote mainstreaming of biodiversity across socioeconomic systems.
4. Actions by non-State actors can show how transformational shifts are being carried out in support of the post-2020 process and why cross-sectoral implementation of the global framework for biodiversity is critical for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Commitments voluntarily undertaken by non-State actors are featured on an online CBD registry and will be showcased at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and at other key meetings, including through social media channels, to demonstrate the level, scale and types of commitments for biodiversity.
6. The Action Agenda online platform currently hosts 166 commitments on 11 action areas: food systems and health; freshwater, coastal and ocean ecosystems; conservation and restoration of land ecosystem; climate change mitigation and adaptation; conservation and sustainable use of species; sustainable consumption and production; stewardship/good governance; urban sustainability; green finance; biosafety; and access to benefit-sharing.

**II. Objective of the side-event**

7. The objective of the event is to underscore how non-State actor commitments support the urgency of action and ambition on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, while also showcasing concrete examples of biodiversity's fundamental role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers will present their motivations in setting commitments and share how commitments are translated into actions that reduce pressures on socioeconomic and ecological systems. Methodologies used to track progress will also be shared. Ultimately, commitments will show close alignment between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Launched at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference 2018 – COP 14, [Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt Announcement: Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People](#).

8. Organizing the event at UNEA5 will allow for discussion with the United Nations Environment Programme and its extensive network, to strengthen non-State actor engagement and collaborative public-private and community actions, in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Information on the event will also be distributed via partners' communication platforms and social media channels.

9. A proposed agenda for the side event is contained in the annex.

### III. Participation

10. The event will be virtual and open to all interested participants. The platform will be hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, consisting of an hour-and-a-half session conducted in English. Schedule and registration details will be posted on the UNEA5 website and on the CBD website.

11. Panellists will share their views on why taking action from their sector perspective is critical for biodiversity and sustainability, and how their organizations and coalition groups are contributing to bending the curve on biodiversity loss, with specific commitments and actions.

12. Countries and stakeholders will have an opportunity to speak, through alternating interventions, and dialogue session with the panellist. In preparation, participants may wish to consult the following documents:

- Fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* available at: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/gbo5/publication/gbo-5-en.pdf>
- Information on the Action Agenda: <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/>
- Commitments made to the Action Agenda <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/contributions/>

13. The event will also count on the support of partner organizations to ensure wide participation, dissemination and outreach ahead of the event and dissemination of a summary after the event.

### IV. Outcome of the webinar

14. The side event seeks to: (a) mobilize and connect new voices and leadership in support of the biodiversity agenda; (b) profile commitments and actions to the post-2020 process, as well as complementary benefits to the Sustainable Development Goals and UN Decade of Action; and (c) bring awareness of non-State led coalition commitments and methodologies to track progress in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

15. A summary report will be prepared and available on the CBD website.

#### *Annex*

#### **Provisional agenda**

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	<b>Login details (through CBD platform)</b> Participants are invited to log-in as early as possible to ensure a timely start to the webinar.	Participants log in and test technical arrangements.
2 min.	<b>CBD Secretariat (Welcome)</b> Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary	Introduction to the event
6 min.	<b>Opening remarks</b> Minister of Environment of Egypt and Minister of Ecology and Environment of China	Welcoming remarks

5 min.	<b>Reflections on the post-2020 process</b> Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada)	Reflections on process/ framing on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
Panel Discussion	Moderator: Mr. Manuel Pulgar Vidal (Former Minister of Environment of Peru; WWF Senior Advisor)	
35 min.	<b>Commitments on biodiversity and broader Sustainable Development Goals</b> Ms. Marina Grossi, President of the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development, Brazilian Business Commitment for Biodiversity (coalition of 14 companies) <b>Fashion for Biodiversity</b> – Coalition commitments and Kering Biodiversity Strategy Ms. Geraldine Vallejo, Sustainability Programme Director at Kering <b>Finance for Biodiversity Pledge</b> - Protecting and restoring biodiversity through finance activities and investments Ms. Vicki Benjamin, CEO, Karner Blue Capital <b>Science Based Targets for Nature</b> - Methodologies to support commitment tracking Ms. Erin Billman, Executive Director, Science Based Targets Network	
25 min.	<b>Moderated discussion and Q&amp;A</b> Countries and stakeholders to provide views and questions via interventions and the chat function to the panellist.	In-depth discussion
10 min.	<b>Reflections on the Action Agenda for Nature and People,</b> Mr. Gonzalo Muñoz, Climate Champion <b>Strengthening Commitments for Biodiversity</b> Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, GEF CEO <b>Partnership, stakeholder engagement and collaboration</b> Mr. Neville Ash, Director, UNEP -WCMC	Reflections and collaboration
5 min.	<b>Closing remarks</b> Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary, to provide remarks.	Closure of the meeting