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### **LONG-TERM STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS TO THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY, APPROACHES TO LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE AND PREPARATION FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. According to the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties, adopted in [decision XII/31](#), the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting will consider, among other things, the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related means of implementation, including resource mobilization (i.e., the post-2020 global biodiversity framework). To provide context for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Conference of the Parties is also due to consider at its fourteenth meeting “the long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, as well as “approaches to living in harmony with nature”.
2. In preparation for the consideration of these matters by the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), at its twenty-first meeting, adopted [recommendation XXI/1](#) on scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, noting that the process for preparing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should make provisions for sound analytical work in order to ensure that the framework would be based on the best available evidence. SBSTTA also prepared a draft decision for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties. The 2050 Vision is further considered in section I of the present document.
3. Further to the request of the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting ([decision XIII/1](#), para. 34), the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) at its second meeting, considered a proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 on the basis of a draft prepared by the Executive Secretary (CBD/SBI/2/17). In recommendation [SBI-2/19](#), SBI took note of the proposed preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and requested the Executive Secretary, among other tasks, to update the proposal on the basis of further views. SBI also prepared draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, and for the respective meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols. The proposed preparatory process is further considered in section II of the present document.
4. Also at its twenty-first meeting, SBSTTA, in its recommendation [21/5](#), prepared a draft decision on the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. The fifth edition will draw upon, inter alia, the sixth national reports and the assessments prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and will serve as a basis for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, along with other sources of knowledge.
5. The Conference of the Parties is expected to address this agenda item on the basis the draft decisions prepared by SBSTTA in its recommendations [21/1](#) and [21/5](#), and of SBI in its recommendation

2/19, reproduced in the compilation of draft decision (CBD/COP/14/2), as well as the present document, which has been prepared pursuant to the same recommendations.

**I. THE 2050 VISION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020, APPROACHES TO LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

6. The 2050 Vision for Biodiversity was adopted as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by decision X/2. The vision of this Strategic Plan is a world of “Living in harmony with nature” where “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

7. It was noted at the second meeting of the SBI that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework needed to be commensurate with the challenges in achieving the transformational change required to achieve the 2050 Vision (recommendation 2/19, annex).

8. In its recommendation 21/1, SBSTTA prepared conclusions regarding scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (annex to the recommendation, reproduced in CBD/COP/14/2). The Conference of the Parties is recommended to welcome these conclusions as well as the information contained in the notes by the Executive Secretary and supporting information documents,<sup>1</sup> noting their relevance to the discussions on the long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, approaches to living in harmony with nature and the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

9. The conclusions regarding scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity include the following points, which are further elaborated in the full conclusions:

(a) The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan remains relevant and should be considered in any follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(b) Current trends, or “business-as-usual” scenarios, show continued loss of biodiversity;

(c) Scenarios for future socioeconomic development demonstrate that there is a wide range of plausible futures;

(d) The biodiversity goals reflected in the 2050 Vision could be attained while also reaching broader socioeconomic objectives by deploying a combination of measures;

(e) These measures could be developed in various “policy mixes” depending on the needs and priorities of countries and stakeholders;

(f) The pathways towards a sustainable future, while plausible, require transformational change;

(g) A coherent approach is needed on biodiversity and climate change;

(h) The 2050 Vision is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international goals;

(i) Scenarios and models may be useful in informing the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(j) Scenario analyses tailored to regional, national or local circumstances provide information to feed into strategic planning for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

10. With regard to the first point, SBSTTA concluded that the 2050 Vision contains elements that could be translated into a long-term goal for biodiversity and provide context for discussions on possible biodiversity targets for 2030 as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Parties may thus wish

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<sup>1</sup> These documents are CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 and CBD/SBSTTA/21/2/Add.1 as well as CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/2/Rev.1, CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/3/Rev.1, CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/4/Rev.1 and CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/18/Rev.1. The latter have been updated pursuant to SBSTTA recommendation 21/2, paragraph 2.

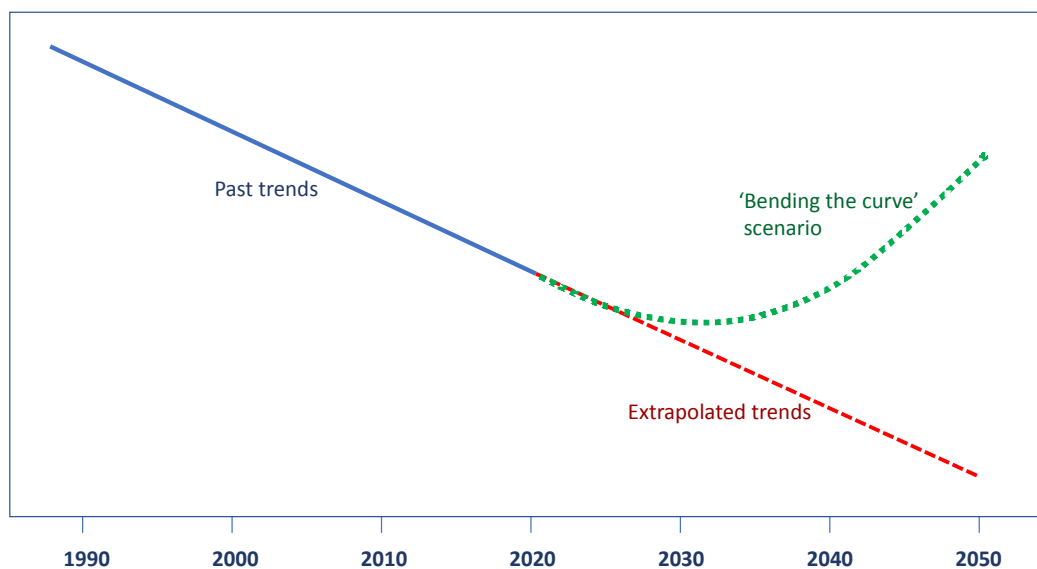
to consider this matter, both at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (including through the dialogue session on “Approaches to Living in Harmony with Nature”, see CBD/COP/14/9/Add.2), and in the subsequent process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

11. In terms of biodiversity attributes, the 2050 Biodiversity Vision implies an abundance of wildlife and wild places, and a reduced risk of extinction for all species. It also implies that people are benefiting from biodiversity in their daily lives and can expect to continue to do so indefinitely.

12. A longer timescale is important to achieve such a positive vision, given the lag times inherent in socio-ecological systems: current trends for biodiversity are generally highly negative, with many drivers currently increasing in intensity; it will therefore take some time to achieve the fundamental changes needed to reduce many drivers of these trends; and many ecosystems and species time require for recovery once threats are reduced. As SBSTTA noted, despite current trends, future scenarios show that alternative, positive futures, are possible.

13. A long-term goal (or goals) can help to establish a common purpose, guide action over intermediate time periods and engage and motivate actors. This requires scaled-up and creative communication and outreach efforts to bring the issue to the attention of large audiences and stakeholders and mobilize impactful action. Clear guidance on the pathway forward, including for actors such as business and financial industry, in addition to governments, civil society, and people at large, is essential to define avenues and roadmaps to meeting the larger goal(s).

**Figure:**



In establishing long-term goal(s) for the Convention and its three objectives, the following should be considered, inter alia:

(a) Elements that are necessary to ensure long-term stability of the Earth-systems, recognizing its complex system dynamics. At a global scale, the “Planetary Boundaries” approach<sup>2</sup> provides a framework of reference to identify “boundaries” relevant to biodiversity including biosphere integrity, land-use change, freshwater use, climate change, and pollution by nutrients and chemicals;

<sup>2</sup> Mace et al. (2014) “Approaches to defining a planetary boundary for biodiversity, *Glob. Environ. Change* **28**, 289–297 (2014); Steffen et al (2015) Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet *Science* **347**, 1259855.

(b) What is necessary to provide, at all scales from local to global, ecosystem goods and services, as well as other elements of nature/biodiversity to contribute to a good quality of life, in the light of various worldviews;

(c) Concrete steps that can and need to be taken in the short and medium-term (such as for 2030 and 2040) in pursuit of the long-term goals (for 2050) can be derived through the “back-casting” method. This could search for ways and means to significantly accelerate the needed transformation;

(d) Achieving a positive vision in 2050 in the light of current negative trends implies “bending the curve” of biodiversity loss (see figure, above). Work is currently underway, through visioning, scenario setting and modelling approaches, to identify plausible pathways towards such an end, and the possible contributions of various interventions to do so;<sup>3</sup>

(e) There may be alternative pathways towards the long-term goals, implying choices to be made at different scales. These choices will be informed by different world views. As noted by SBSTTA, visioning exercises may help to elucidate such choices;

(f) Thus, long-term goals can help to inform long-term sustainable development pathways, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Within this context, short-term action will be needed focussed on 2030, consistent with the 2030 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(g) As noted by SBSTTA, transformational changes will be required, including changes in behaviour at the levels of producers and consumers, governments and businesses to achieve the long-term goals. Further efforts would be needed to understand motivations and facilitate change. Societal and disruptive technological developments could lead to transitions that may contribute to, or counter, sustainability and the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention. This will require work at the nexus of biodiversity, climate change, food and water, agriculture and health among other sectors and issues, considering trade-offs among these areas and related policy options regarding sustainable production and consumption, pollution and urbanization. Governments and international institutions could play a critical role in establishing an enabling environment to foster positive change;

(h) The transitions approach, and experience of transformational change in other sectors, may provide useful insights in this respect.<sup>4</sup> A transitions approach in the biodiversity arena could empower transformative change and support more effective and positive biodiversity outcomes post-2020, both at national and global levels. Such an approach could include focused multi-sectorial dialogue processes around desired sustainability transitions at national level, taking into account the specificity of each national context. They could thus inform national ambitions, national strategies could become more supportive of the transformative actions for biodiversity needed on the ground, and provide a broader societal input towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

## II. PROPOSED PROCESS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

### A. Background

14. A proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was made available to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting as document CBD/SBI/2/17. In recommendation SBI-2/19, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation took note of the proposed preparatory process, and requested the Executive Secretary to invite, for submission by 15 August 2018, further views from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant international organizations, civil society

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<sup>3</sup> Mace et al (2018, “Aiming higher to bend the curve of biodiversity loss,” *Nature Sustainability* 1, 448-451) extrapolate from current CBD and UN commitments to identify biodiversity goals for 2050, and associated indicators. Leclère et al (2018, “Towards pathways bending the curve of terrestrial biodiversity trends within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, <http://pure.iiasa.ac.at/id/eprint/15241/> ) set out their work to develop such scenarios and to identify various “intervention wedges” (*sensu* Pacala & Socolow (2004)).

<sup>4</sup> See CBD/SBI/2/INF26 See also Loorbach, Frantzeskaki, and Avelino (2017) Sustainability Transitions Research: Transforming Science and Practice for Societal Change. *Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour.* 42:4.1–4.28.

organizations, women's and youth organizations, private and financial sectors and other stakeholders, including on options for strengthening implementation, fostering commitments and building political momentum (including on the need for, and modalities of, voluntary commitments), and to compile and analyse these views for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting. SBI further requested the Executive Secretary to update, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, the proposed preparatory process and the indicative chronology of key activities, taking into account these views as well as statements made or supported by Parties at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, including the considerations identified in the annex to recommendation SBI/19.

15. In the light of the request above a notification was issued inviting comments on the proposed preparatory process by 15 August 2018. An overview of the 23 submissions is provided in section II below; the full submissions are available through the Convention's clearing house mechanism.<sup>5</sup>

16. An updated preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework developed in the light of the discussions at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body and the additional comments received from Parties and Observers is provided in annex I below.

17. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in recommendation 2/19, also requested the Executive Secretary, inter alia:

(a) To explore in collaboration with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, streamlined options to provide advice and high-level political guidance, such as informal advisory groups and/or a High-level Panel, together with respective modalities and tasks for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

(b) To develop advice for Parties, the Secretariat and other relevant organizations to enable a gender-responsive process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and make this advice available for the consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

18. These matters are considered in annex II below and CBD/COP/14/9/Add.1, respectively.

19. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation also requested the Executive Secretary to maintain an updated list of events that may provide opportunities for consultation on the development of the post-2020 framework, including through the interactive 2020 Biodiversity Strategic Planning Timeline. Currently, an updated list is being maintained at <https://post2020.unep-wcmc.org>; a list will be established and maintained on the Convention's website.

20. Finally, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation also requested the Executive Secretary to invite, for submission by 15 December 2018, initial views from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, international organizations, civil society organizations, private sector and other stakeholders on the aspects of the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including (a) the scientific underpinning of the scale and scope of actions necessary to make progress towards the 2050 Vision; and (b) a possible structure for the post-2020 biodiversity framework. Some views have already been submitted in response to earlier notifications and a summary was made available in annex II to CBD/SBI/2/17. An updated analysis of submissions received will be made available for the information of the Conference of the Parties (CBD/COP/14/INF/16).

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<sup>5</sup> By 12 September 2018 comments had been received from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, European Union, Iceland, New Zealand, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, United Nations Environment Programme, UN Women, BirdLife International, China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, EcoNexus, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, the International Maritime Organization, the Natural Capital Coalition, Nature Conservation Society of Japan, and WWF. These comments, as well as comments provided in response to earlier related notifications, are accessible from <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/submissions.shtml>.

## **B. Overview of the views submitted on the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

21. Submissions were generally consistent in their support for the principles identified to guide the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Some additional suggested principles, were results oriented, accountable, efficient, and communicative.

22. Several of the submissions noted the need to start the process as early as possible to ensure sufficient time for discussion. Similarly, it was noted that agreement on the general structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be obtained early in the framework's development process.

23. It was suggested that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be developed in a phased approach, with the first phase being used to collect input and undertaken consultations and the second phase to develop consensus.

24. The need for the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be Party led was emphasized in several submissions. The process should be designed to facilitate the meaningful participation by all Parties. However, it was also observed that that process should allow for broad consultations, engagement and multisector engagement, including allowances for the development of greater synergy between the Convention and other biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements and the United Nations system more broadly. This would help to generate the political will, ownership and engagement necessary for the post-2020 global biodiversity to be implemented effectively. In this respect the importance of online forums and of global, regional and sectoral consultation workshops were highlighted in the submissions. The importance of national consultations was also highlighted and it was suggested that lessons from the Sustainable Development Goals preparatory process would be relevant in this regard. Further it was also suggested that a specific space or venue should be established for the business sector and civil society organisations to share their experiences in addressing biodiversity issues. The need to ensure the equal and effective participation of women and women's groups in the post-2020 process was also noted.

25. A number of the submissions proposed the establishment an advisory group to help promote and/or guide the process. However, ideas regarding the specific roles, functions, modalities and composition for this group varied. Among the possible roles identified for such a group were raising awareness of the process and encouraging high level and broad engagement in it, providing oversight, supporting regional consultations, preparing and reviewing relevant documentation, and increasing visibility and political momentum. Further while there was general agreement that the group should be regionally balanced and include representatives of Parties and observers, there were various views on the size of this group. Some noted that it should have a similar structure to an ad hoc technical expert group while some felt it should have larger participation. It was also noted that any advisory group should have a clear mandate, avoid any overlap with the role of the COP Bureau and be overseen by the COP Bureau. Relatedly it was also observed that the COP Bureau should play a greater role in promoting transparency, encouraging regional and national participation in the process.

26. It was also suggested that an extraordinary meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation be held to provide an additional opportunity for Parties to engage in an intergovernmental setting.

27. Further to SBI recommendation 2/19, many submissions were generally supportive of promoting voluntary national commitments, noting that they could be used to ratchet up action for biodiversity, galvanise political momentum and reduce the implementation gap and provide Parties and observers with opportunities to show leadership in addressing biodiversity loss. The call for such voluntary commitments would be launched at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. However, the voluntary nature of any such commitments was stressed and it was noted that their voluntary commitments should not distract from the need to increase efforts towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets or limit the ambition of any targets adopted in 2020. The need to consider how these commitments relate to and are supportive of the NBSAP process were also highlighted. A number of submissions emphasized that commitments or pledges from non-state actors should also be encouraged.

28. The need to include specific considerations of issues related to indicators, monitoring, assessment and review, resource mobilization and capacity building in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was also noted. Several submissions noted that these issues should be considered in parallel and as part of the process of developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and not left to be developed after the post-2020 framework has been established.

29. It was noted that adequate financial provision would be needed to support an inclusive, participatory and comprehensive preparatory process.

*Annex I***REVISED PROPOSED PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

1. The Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, in 2020, is expected to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>6</sup> Decision XIII/1 sets out the mandate for the preparatory process and provides guidance on its characteristics which are reflected in the set of overarching principles, key activities and information sources below.

**A. Overarching principles guiding the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

2. The process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be Party led, overseen by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and guided by the following principles:

(a) *Participatory* – While being Party lead, the process will enable the effective and meaningful participation of all those who desire to engage in the process, including through participation in relevant workshops, consultations, and formal meetings and by providing feedback and comments on discussion and official documents;

(b) *Inclusive* – The process should encourage all relevant groups and stakeholders to provide their views. This includes Parties, other government organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations, women’s groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, citizens at large, and other stakeholders. The process should also be gender sensitive by ensuring appropriate representation in relevant meetings. Efforts should be made to solicit views from a wide range of perspectives, going beyond those traditionally involved in the work of the Convention and the two Protocols.

(c) *Transformative* – The process will mobilize broad societal engagement to achieve accelerated and sustainable transformations, whereby biodiversity and ecosystems are recognized as the essential infrastructure supporting life on Earth, without which human development and well-being will not be possible. It will place biodiversity at the heart of the sustainable development agenda;

(d) *Comprehensive* – The process will enable feedback on all issues relevant to the work of the Convention and its Protocols. It will also make use of all available information and take into account other relevant international frameworks, strategies and plans;

(e) *Catalytic* – The process should serve to catalyse a global-scale movement for biodiversity, emphasizing the sense of political urgency and mobilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement concrete actions from local to national and global levels;

(f) *Knowledge based* – The process will be based on the best available science and evidence from relevant knowledge systems, including the natural and social sciences, local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, as well as on the best practices and lessons learned from the implementation to date of the Convention and its Protocols;

(g) *Transparent* – The process will be clearly documented, including through updates of progress to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, and to meetings of subsidiary bodies. Progress in developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and opportunities for engagement in the process will also be effectively communicated;

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<sup>6</sup> The term “framework” is used in the present document so as not to prejudice a decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization as to what form the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will take.



(h) *Efficient* – The process will build on existing processes and take advantage of opportunities to share views and build consensus;

(i) *Result Oriented* – The process will seek to identify at an early stage issues for further clarification, discussion and exploration. Relevant experts and stakeholders will be engaged to address potential issues and solutions, building on the experiences in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(j) *Iterative* – The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be developed in an iterative manner to build consensus and ownership. There will be ample opportunity for those interested to comment on relevant documentation and/or to participate in relevant consultations;

### **B. Oversight and transparency**

3. In order to ensure the transparency of the preparatory process the following actions will also be taken:

(a) Discussions and negotiations to develop the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be undertaken through the established subsidiary bodies of the Convention (SBSTTA, SBI and WG8J), i.e. through open-ended intergovernmental bodies that allow for the participation of all Parties on an equal footing as well as observers;<sup>7</sup>

(b) Preliminary consultations will similarly be open to all Parties and observers. Efforts will be made to ensure that financial resources are available to support the participation of representatives from eligible countries;

(c) Relevant documents will be made available for review and comment;

(d) The process will be overseen by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, and, as appropriate, the Bureau of SBSTTA and SBI. Advisory groups may also be constituted;<sup>8</sup>

(e) A dedicated webpage on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be created and regularly updated by the Secretariat.

### **C. Activities**

4. The process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be implemented over an approximate two-year period in an iterative manner. As such the development process will need to be implemented in a flexible way to take advantage of opportunities which arise throughout the intersessional period and to best use resources and knowledge. A chronology of key milestones and activities is contained in appendix 1.

5. The process of developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will consist of consultations among Parties and observers to the Convention and Protocols, and all relevant stakeholders to gather and share views and to identify areas of agreement and divergence. Views will be solicited through multiple means, including:

(a) Providing opportunities for Parties and observers to the Convention and Protocols and stakeholders to submit views on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including on discussion documents, elements and drafts of the framework.

(b) Regional, or sub-regional, workshops to allow for consultations and to facilitate dialogues on relevant issues.

(c) Global thematic and sectoral workshops to allow for consultations and to facilitate dialogues on, relevant issues. The specific timing, modalities and themes for these workshops will depend on the resources available and the partners involved.

<sup>7</sup> Subject to the availability of resources, an additional open-ended group of experts, could be constituted, see paragraph 7.

<sup>8</sup> See annex II.

(d) A workshop to facilitate discussions among Parties of the biodiversity-related conventions, with participation of members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity related conventions.

(e) Consultations at relevant meetings, including meetings convened by other biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant processes,<sup>9</sup>. Specific actions could include co-organizing co-designed sessions to build engagement and coalitions with other relevant sectors to contribute to post-2020 actions, including business, the financial sector, and youth.

6. Based on views collected above the Secretariat will prepare, in an iterative manner, documentation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for the consideration of Parties and observers. Noting the need for the early availability of documentation to inform discussion and consultations by Parties and observers on the scope and possible content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and in line with SBI recommendation 2/19, an initial discussion document summarising and analysing the initial views of Parties and observers will be made available in January 2019. This initial discussion document, and subsequent comments on it by Parties and observers, will serve as the basis for preparing subsequent documents, including a document providing possible elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and, later, drafts of the framework. The documents prepared will address, among other things, the scientific underpinning of the scale and scope of actions necessary to make progress towards the 2050 Vision, the possible structure for the post-2020 biodiversity framework, considerations related to ambitious, measurable, realistic and time-bound targets, monitoring and reviewing implementation, including through the use of indicators and the alignment of national reporting under the Convention and its Protocols, implications for capacity building needs beyond 2020, resource mobilization, promoting gender equality, and enhancing coherence and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, including options for enhancing synergies on national reporting among the biodiversity-related conventions, Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The second phase of the development process will seek to build consensus on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on the basis of the consultations noted above. Consensus will be sought through the formal consideration of documents in meetings of the Convention's subsidiary bodies. In addition, subject to the availability of resources in order to facilitate consensus and ensure sufficient time for discussions, an open ended intersessional working group, or intergovernmental expert group of SBSTTA/SBI could be convened (Draft terms of reference for such a meeting are provided in appendix 3). The formal process would culminate in the anticipated adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework by COP and COP-MOPs at their meetings in 2020.

8. In addition to the activities carried out as part of these two phases the Secretariat, working with various partners, will also undertake and/or encourage a number of additional activities. These activities include:

(a) Mobilizing political buy-in at the highest level and encouraging and supporting actions that would raise the visibility and political profile of biodiversity among competing global priorities;

(b) An outreach effort to encourage participation in the process with a view to enabling inputs from various perspectives, including from business and the finance sector, and to securing wide ownership of the resulting framework and to mobilizing engagement in its implementation. Parties will also be encouraged to facilitate corresponding efforts at national level;

(c) Encouraging the organization by Parties of national consultations. Such meetings could include the development of 'transition arenas' for specific biodiversity relevant sectors in the national and local economy with support of the researchers from biodiversity and transition communities. Complementary to existing NBSAPs, such processes could help to develop national transition agendas in which transition to biodiversity positive economic pathways are explored in relevant sectors in congruence with the objectives of

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<sup>9</sup> The Secretariat will maintain an updated list of events that may provide opportunities for consultation on the development of the post-2020 framework, including through the interactive 2020 Biodiversity Strategic Planning Timeline (<https://post2020.unep-wcmc.org>).

mainstreaming biodiversity adopted at the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Encouraging and supporting the organization of meetings by partners including workshops, expert meetings, and other inputs organized by international and other organizations including intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

#### **D. Key information sources**

9. The key sources of information that will be used in developing documentation related to the post-2020 process and in informing the activities carried out are:

(a) Inputs and submissions from Parties and observers to the Convention and Protocols and from stakeholders;

(b) National reports to the Convention and its Protocols;

(c) National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);

(d) Outcomes of the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol to be conducted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol;

(e) Findings from the fourth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and final evaluation of its Strategic Plan to be conducted in preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol;

(f) The fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and related reports;

(g) Global, and regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and completed thematic assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);

(h) Assessments from other relevant processes, such as the IPCC and relevant national and subregional assessments;

(i) Information from the other biodiversity related conventions and Rio conventions and other relevant organizations, including relevant national reports to the other multilateral environmental agreements, and relevant strategies adopted by other biodiversity related conventions;

(j) Voluntary National Reviews to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report;<sup>10</sup>

(k) Information provided through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership;

(l) Relevant peer reviewed literature and other relevant reports, including reports on systems transition,<sup>11</sup> transition management and transformative change, as well as information from other knowledge systems;

(m) Other sources of information, relevant for the broader interlinkages between biodiversity and other societal and economic processes, notably the transformation of economic and financial sectors and industry to achieve sustainable development within the Planet's ecological boundaries (i.e. food and environmental security, health, cities and urban development, business innovation, technology, sustainable consumption and production, water and efficient resource use, among others); and

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<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", annex, para. 83.

<sup>11</sup> See: <https://drift.eur.nl/about/transitions/>

(n) Analytical work prepared in accordance with SBSTTA recommendations XXI/1 (scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity) and XXI/5 (Fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook: considerations for its preparation*). This includes analytical work on the following:

- (i) The links between biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in providing an enabling environment for addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss;
- (ii) Lessons learned from the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including successes, challenges, opportunities and capacity-building needs;
- (iii) Possible reasons for the varying levels of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- (iv) Policy options and recommendations under the Convention that could leverage the transformational change required to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (v) Ways in which other biodiversity-related conventions, the other Rio Conventions and other relevant international conventions and agreements could contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

#### **E. Engagement, communication and outreach**

10. The effectiveness of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework depends on the active participation of all Parties to the Convention and the Protocols, including by promoting meaningful national consultations. Specifically, in developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework Parties may wish to:

(a) Promote the active engagement of Convention and Protocol focal points and encourage the participation of national focal points of other related international and regional agreements and processes, including the focal points of United Nations organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as representatives from other sectors;

(b) Promote the active engagement of observers and stakeholders;

(c) Consider options for strengthening implementation, fostering commitments and building political momentum, including the need for voluntary commitments;

(d) Seek to encourage and support active engagement of all relevant stakeholders at national and sub-national level, including local authorities, cities, business, financial sector, civil society, youth, academia, citizens.

11. In implementing the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework the Secretariat will facilitate the effective participation of Parties, observers and stakeholders. It will also promote political engagement at key strategic meetings, including by raising awareness of the post-2020 process, as well as the Convention and biodiversity, more broadly. To this end an advisory group and/or high-level panel to provide high-level political advice to guide and promote the work of the Convention will be established (see annex II).

12. The process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be gender-responsive and participatory in order to ensure that gender considerations and the perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities and all the other stakeholders are effectively incorporated in the framework. To this end, as per SBI recommendation 2/19, draft advice for Parties, the Secretariat and other relevant organizations to enable a gender-responsive process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has been developed (see CBD/COP/14/9/Add.1).

13. The implementation of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be supported by coherent, comprehensive, and enhanced communication and outreach actions,

developed in partnership with other organizations. The communication activity will promote awareness of the process, promote effective engagement, and build momentum for implementation. Information on the status of development and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be made regularly available, including through the Convention's clearing house mechanism and other means.

14. As part of the multi-stakeholder partnership and engagement process, and in line with SBI recommendation 2/19, the Executive Secretary will invite and encourage Parties and observers to the Convention and Protocols as well as all relevant stakeholders to develop, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and on a voluntary basis, biodiversity commitments. They will support building political momentum and informing the discussions on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Information on these commitments will be made available through the Convention's clearing house mechanism, to meetings of the Convention's subsidiary bodies, reflected in relevant documentation and communication and outreach materials. Further considerations regarding the development of national commitments is provided in annex III.

#### **F. Other considerations**

15. To ensure the coherence and complementarity of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with other existing or upcoming international processes several other considerations will be taken into account:

(a) Other global trends<sup>12</sup> that will impact biodiversity and ecosystems in the next decades, including the fourth industrial revolution and technological developments, rapidly growing demographics, migration trends and other socio-economic developments that could have a critical impact on the balance between planetary systems;<sup>13</sup>

(b) A systems transition approach that could empower transformative change in the biodiversity arena and support the more effective delivery of positive biodiversity outcomes post-2020, both at national and global levels. Such an approach could help implement a focused multi-sectorial dialogue process around desired sustainability transitions pathways at national level, taking into account the specificity of each national context and inform national ambitions;

(c) Ongoing work under the Convention and the two Protocols to strengthen implementation support mechanisms and the review of implementation.

16. In order to promote engagement in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Secretariat will take steps to ensure that the process is consistent and coherent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other related processes, frameworks and strategies<sup>14</sup>. It will also encourage other multilateral environmental agreements, other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant processes to actively participate in the development process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

#### **G. Resource and logistic requirements**

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<sup>12</sup> Examples of these include trends in demographics, migration, security, innovative financial mechanisms, blended finance, impact investment, and public-private partnerships.

<sup>13</sup> Examples of these include advances in artificial intelligence, blockchain technologies, big data, and geo-spatial data.

<sup>14</sup> Examples of these agreements include (1) the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted under the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, (2) the Paris Climate Agreement, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, (3) the Land Degradation Neutrality Goal, adopted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, (4) the new Urban Agenda, adopted under United Nations Human Settlements Programme, (5) the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, (6) the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, and (7) the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as key strategies/agendas adopted by other biodiversity-related conventions, such as the (8) Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, (9) the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, (10) the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and (11) the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 (12) the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for resource mobilization adopted by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, (13) the SAMOA Pathway, and (14) the Mountain Partnership Vision and Mission.

17. The process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity will be coordinated by the Secretariat, where a dedicated post-2020 task team will be established to work within the terms of reference of existing posts funded from the Convention's core budget. Additional financial resources required for the process are detailed in appendix 2.

18. Implementing the preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will require that the Secretariat enter into a number of contractual agreements, particularly for organizing the global and regional workshops and to ensure appropriate representation at key events and relevant meetings. Taking into account United Nations procurement procedures, it will be important to secure sufficient resources early on in the preparation process as contractual arrangements can require several months to finalize. As such, the funding available and the timing of when it becomes available will have a large bearing on how the preparatory process is implemented.

## Appendix 1

**INDICATIVE CHRONOLOGY OF KEY ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES LEADING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK BY COP 15, CP-MOP 10 AND NP-MOP 4**

*Note:* Rows in green indicate consultations processes with Parties and observers to the Convention and Protocols and stakeholders. Rows in blue indicate when key documents in the preparation process will become available. Rows in grey indicate the timing of key meetings organised under the Convention and Protocols. The chronology should be considered together with the indicative timeline for the development of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* provided in SBSTTA recommendation 21/5.

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
	17 July- 15 December 2018	In response to SBI recommendations 2/6 and 2/11 Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, international organizations, civil society organizations, private sector and other stakeholders submit initial views on the aspects of the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The views received will be synthesized and analysed and made available in the discussion document noted below.
	10 – 22 November 2018	<b>COP-14, CP/MOP-9 and NP/MOP-3</b> consider for adoption the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
Phase I. Consultation	15 January 2018	Initial discussion paper, grounded on submissions received and other sources of knowledge.
	January- May 2019	Regional Consultation workshops and online discussion forums, focused on the post-2020 process organized. The number, timing and modalities for the workshops will depend on the resources available, and the timing of other related events being organized during this period.
	15 January-15 April 2019	Parties and observers invited to provide views on the initial discussion paper as well as any additional views and inputs arising from their national and regional consultations.
	April-May 2019	Consultation workshop among the biodiversity related conventions. The specific timing and modalities for the workshops will depend on the resources available, and the timing of other related events being organized during this period.
	15 May 2019	Discussion paper focusing on possible elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework developed and made available for comment.
	15 May -15 August 2019	Peer review by Parties and observers to the Convention and Protocols and stakeholders on the elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
	2-5 July 2019	Global consultation workshop focused on the evidence from the natural, economic and social sciences and traditional knowledge systems related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
	June-August 2019	Global consultation with business.
	June – September 2019	Thematic consultation workshop(s) including workshop(s) that focus on the Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol.
	15 September 2019	Revised document on elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the draft fifth edition of the <i>Global Biodiversity Outlook</i> , made available for consideration during SBSTTA-23.

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Phase 2 – Consensus building	<b>14 – 18 October 2019<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>SBSTTA-23</b> reviews possible elements for the post2020 global biodiversity framework, including any implications arising from the IPBES global assessment, the draft of the fifth edition of the <i>Global Biodiversity Outlook</i> as well as other relevant information and sources of knowledge.
	<b>19 – 21 October 2019<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>WG8J-11</b> examines the potential role of traditional knowledge, customary sustainable use and the contribution of the collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

January-February 2020	Global consultation workshop focused on issues related to policy and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (back-to-back with open ended working group)
<b>January-February 2020</b>	An <b>open-ended Group of Experts of the subsidiary bodies</b> to determine the proposed structure and scope of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework prior to its further consideration by SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3
March 2020	Draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework made available for consideration by SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3
May 2020	The fifth edition of the <i>Global Biodiversity Outlook</i> published on the basis on the 6 <sup>th</sup> national reports, updated NBSAPS, the IPBES Assessments and information from the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
<b>18-22 May 2020<sup>17</sup></b>	<b>SBSTTA-24</b> considers the draft of the post2020 global biodiversity framework from a scientific and technical perspective
<b>25-29 May 2020<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>SBI-3</b> considers draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including related means to support and review implementation, with a view to developing a recommendation for COP-15, CP/MOP 10, and NP/MOP 4
<b>September 2020</b>	<b>Leaders’ summit</b> meeting on the margins of the opening of the United Nations General Assembly provides political direction and momentum to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
<b>October 2020</b>	<b>COP-15, CP/MOP10 and NP/MOP4</b> considers for adoption the post-2020 global biodiversity

<sup>15</sup> To be confirmed.

<sup>16</sup> To be confirmed.

<sup>17</sup> The Secretariat has made provisions for facilities at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization, in Montreal, on these dates.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.



*Appendix 2***Indicative budget for key activities leading to the consideration of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by COP 15, CP-MOP 10 and NP-MOP 4**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>
Regional Consultation workshops	10 regional consultation workshops (2 per region) will be held. These workshops would be open to Parties, other governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, business stakeholders, youth groups, civil society, academia and other relevant organizations and stakeholders from the relevant regions.	700 000 and in kind support <sup>19</sup>
Dialogue workshops	Dialogue workshops (such as the Bogis-Bosey Dialogues for Biodiversity) with the participation of experts and representatives from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, business stakeholders, youth groups, civil society, academia and other relevant organizations and stakeholders, and other observers.	In kind contribution
Global consultation workshops	A global consultation workshop focused on evidence from the natural, economic and social sciences and traditional knowledge systems related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would be held. An event, such as the Trondheim Biodiversity Conference could be used to convene the consultation.	In kind contribution <sup>20</sup>
	A consultation workshop will be held with a focus on issues related to the Cartagena Protocol with participation from Parties, other governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, business stakeholders, youth groups, civil society, academia and other relevant organizations and stakeholders from all regions would be held.	160 000
	A consultation workshop will be held with a focus on issues related to the Nagoya Protocol with participation from Parties, other governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, business stakeholders, youth groups, civil society, academia and other relevant organizations and stakeholders from all regions would be held.	160 000

<sup>19</sup> Japan has indicated its intention to host a regional consultation for the Asia-Pacific region in January 2019.

<sup>20</sup> Norway is expected to announce that it will host the Trondheim Biodiversity Conference in July 2019.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>
	Consultation workshop with the business community.	In kind contribution
	Consultation workshop among the biodiversity related conventions: In line with recommendation SBI2/9, a consultation workshop will be held to facilitate discussions among Parties of the biodiversity-related conventions, with participation of members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to explore ways in which the conventions contribute to the elaboration of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to identify specific elements that could be included in the framework.	140 000
	A global consultation workshop, held back-to-back with the open-ended Working Group of the subsidiary bodies, focused on issues related to policy and would have approximately 100 participants representing Parties, other governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, business stakeholders, youth groups, civil society, academia and other relevant organizations and stakeholders from all regions would be held.	included below
Open-ended intergovernmental Group	A three-day meeting of an open ended intersessional working group of the subsidiary bodies to prepare a proposed structure, scope and elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework prior to the consideration of the framework by SBSTTA and SBI. It is assumed there would be approximately 200-300 participants representing Parties, other governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, business stakeholders, youth groups, civil society, academia and other relevant organizations and stakeholders.	800 000
Staff travel to relevant events	It is assumed that two or more staff members would travel to relevant meetings in order to raise awareness of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to undertake consultations with relevant actors.	150 000
Consultants	To provide expertise on transitions and the action agenda.	200 000

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>
Communication and outreach activities	With the view to achieving the desired objective to ensure a wide, inclusive and transparent consultation, communication and outreach activities will be essential. The Secretariat will work closely with partner organizations on communication activities and consultation campaigns. Resources will be necessary to support such efforts, including contracting consultants while in-kind contribution from partner organizations will also be sought.	350 000
	Activities to engage civil society, youth etc. The resources required will depend on the scale of the engagement anticipated.	Tbd/in-kind
Subtotal		2 660 000
Programme support costs (13%)		399 000
Total		3 059 000

*Note:* This is not an exhaustive list of possible activities and costs.

*Appendix 3***TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

1. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework established by the Conference of the Parties shall be composed of representatives of Parties and shall be open to observers.
2. The development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework shall be Party-led and transparent. Participation in the Group of Experts should be open to all Parties to the Convention and the Protocols as well as to observers from other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant United Nations organizations, as well as observers and stakeholders, and other relevant organizations, so that the full range of views could be reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
3. The Group on post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should assist the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the twenty third meeting of the Subsidiary Body Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice with regard to their tasks of preparing advice and recommendations to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties regarding the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
4. The Group would prepare a proposed structure, scope and elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This may include ambitious, measurable, realistic and time-bound targets, taking account of available scientific information, as well as elements related to resource mobilization and capacity-building.
5. The Group would undertake its work on the basis of documentation prepared by the Executive Secretary based on the views of Parties to the Convention and its Protocols as well as observers and other inputs developed in line with the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework established through decision 14/--.
6. The Group shall submit its report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting, for their further consideration.
7. The Group would be co-chaired by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
8. The rules of procedure for meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as well as the Subsidiary Body on Implementation would apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the meeting of the Group.
9. The meeting of the Group would be convened for three days with interpretation.
10. Each Party may nominate two representatives to the Group.
11. The meeting of the Group may be preceded by an informal consultation workshop.

*Annex II***STREAMLINED OPTIONS TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK****I. BACKGROUND**

1. In recommendation 2/19, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation requested the Executive Secretary to explore, in collaboration with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, streamlined options to provide advice and high-level political guidance, such as informal advisory groups and/or a high-level panel, together with respective modalities and tasks for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting. In the light of this request, the present document has been issued to explore possible options for the terms of reference of such a group or groups and/or panel. Section II below summarizes the views expressed by Parties and observers during the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and in the comments received following that meeting. Section III explores possible models for an advisory group and/or panel.

**II. VIEWS ON STREAMLINED OPTIONS TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL GUIDANCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

2. During the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and in the comments received following that meeting,<sup>21</sup> various views on the possible tasks, modalities and composition of an advisory group or high-level panel to guide, oversee or advise on the process were raised. These views are summarized below.

**A. Tasks for a high-level or advisory group**

3. A range of possible tasks for a high level or advisory group were raised during SBI-2 and as part of the development of the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These tasks can be organized into three broad categories:

(a) Tasks related to providing oversight and ensuring the transparency of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including:

- (i) Advising on the application of the principles identified for the development process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;<sup>22</sup>
- (ii) Overseeing the effective implementation of the plan for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework agreed at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to ensuring, among other things, that Parties and observers to the Convention and Protocols and other stakeholders are kept informed of the progress made in developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and opportunities to provide views and comments on its scope and content;
- (iii) Assisting or supporting the organization of global and regional consultation meetings and providing advice on, and/or participating in, relevant meetings to provide continuity and linkages among the various processes;

(b) Tasks related to public awareness and advocacy for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including:

- (i) Promoting and encouraging participation and contributions from all relevant stakeholders in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

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<sup>21</sup> All of the submissions received are accessible from <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/submissions.shtml>.

<sup>22</sup> The principles are contained in CBD/SBI/2/17.

- (ii) Acting as political champions to raise awareness of the process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (iii) Promoting high level political engagement;
- (c) Tasks related to providing advice on the content and scope of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including:
  - (i) Providing guidance, insights and advice on the scope of the framework and any associated targets;
  - (ii) Developing and/or reviewing proposals for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
  - (iii) Identifying themes for further consultation;
  - (iv) Providing scientific and technical information and advice, as well as economic and social.

### **B. Composition**

4. Views were consistent in noting the need for any high level or advisory group to be regionally balanced and composed of representatives of Parties and observers to the Convention, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders. Some noted the desirability of having eminent personalities or experts in the group while others noted the need to involve high-level political actors such as ministers.

5. With regards to the size of the group, some felt that it should be relatively small while others felt that it should have a composition like that of an ad hoc technical expert group with two Party representatives per region and additional space for representatives of observers and stakeholders. It was also suggested that a much larger group, one with up to ten Party representatives per region with additional representatives from observers and stakeholders would be needed.

### **C. Modalities**

6. Various modalities for the advisory group were suggested. Some suggested that the advisory group should meet back to back with other scheduled meetings related to the Convention. Others suggested that meetings could be held throughout the preparatory process, including but not solely back to back with meetings organized under the Convention. In addition to physical meetings, the possibility of meeting virtually was also noted.

## **III. POSSIBLE OPTIONS TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL GUIDANCE**

7. The different views on the possible tasks, composition and modalities for a high level or advisory suggest that multiple options for such a group exist. Many of the suggested tasks, while distinct, also overlap in some instances. Further, several of the identified tasks are already carried out, to a certain extent, by existing bodies under the Convention. Also, the suggestions on the composition and modalities of the high level or advisory group would lend themselves to certain tasks more than others. Given this, it is unlikely that a single group could address all these tasks effectively.

8. In the light of the different views on the possible tasks, composition and modalities noted above there are several possible models which could be used to provide the advice and high-level political guidance to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These are presented below and categorized according to their main function:

- (a) Providing oversight of the implementation of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:
  - (i) The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, as part of its existing functions,<sup>23</sup> would be expected to keep the implementation of the process for developing the post-2020 global

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<sup>23</sup> According to under rule 21 of rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau shall provide guidance to the Secretariat with regard to preparations for, and conduct of, meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

biodiversity framework under review. In addition, the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as part of its existing function, would keep the scientific and technical aspects of the process, including the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, under review. Where relevant joint meetings of the two Bureaus could be convened. As per current practice, the bureaux may invite the views of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and other observers. This option would entail little financial or other costs as both bodies are already established and meeting regularly;

- (ii) A group specifically created to oversee the implementation of the process for developing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework could be created. Such a group would entail moderate financial and human resource costs as the body would need to be constituted and modalities for its meetings established. However, the mandate for this type of group may overlap with that of the COP and SBSTTA Bureaus and thus its relationship to the Bureaus would need to be clarified;
- (b) Raising awareness of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and providing political momentum:
- (i) The President of the Conference of the Parties could be invited to establish a group of ministers or other high-level political dignitaries who could act as political champions for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The group could be composed of, among others, ministers representing previous and future COP presidents and other high-level dignitaries. The group would help to raise the political profile of biodiversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity and build momentum for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This option would entail relatively few financial or human resource costs;
  - (ii) The Executive Secretary of the Convention could be requested to establish an advisory group composed of notable figures from various sectors. This group could be tasked with providing advice to the Executive Secretary on, among other things, how to most effectively reach out to and engage with sectors, including from civil society and business. Its members could also serve as champions for biodiversity in other sectors. The group could meet at the margins of meetings organized under the Convention, other relevant meetings and through electronic means. This option would entail moderate financial and human resource costs, mostly associated with the organization of relevant meetings;
  - (iii) A group of notable figures could be mobilized to raise awareness of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and biodiversity generally. However, identifying and supporting the engagement of appropriate personalities would entail significant human resource costs and the associated financial costs are likely to be high as well;
- (c) Providing inputs on the possible scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:
- (i) A group composed of representatives of Parties, observers and stakeholders could be established to provide technical advice on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. However, the relationship of the outputs from such group to other processes, such as the deliberations of SBSTTA and SBI and other open-ended processes would need to be clarified and such an approach might be in opposition to the call for an open, transparent and participatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
  - (ii) An open-ended intergovernmental group of the Convention's Subsidiary bodies could be held to begin negotiating, in a formal setting, elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for further consideration by SBSTTA-23 and SBI-3. Such a meeting would

ensure that the full range of views could be reflected in the framework, and that the framework would be developed in a Party-led and transparent manner.<sup>24</sup>

9. While these models are presented as distinct options several of them could be used together during the implementation of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. For all of the options, efforts would be made to ensure regional as well as gender balance and to ensure representation of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, observers and stakeholders.

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<sup>24</sup> Draft terms of reference for such a group are provided in annex I, appendix 3.



*Annex III***CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL COMMITMENTS/-  
CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK****I. MANDATE**

1. The draft decision prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in recommendation 2/19, contains the following text:

“The Conference of the Parties ... encourages Parties and invites other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant organizations and stakeholders including the private sector to consider developing, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate to the national context, and on a voluntary basis, biodiversity commitments that may contribute to an effective post-2020 biodiversity framework, commensurate with achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, and to make information on these commitments available to the Executive Secretary”. (Paragraph 8 of the draft decision)

2. In its request to the Executive Secretary to invite further views from Parties and others on the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to compile and analyse such views, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation specifically included views on the need for, and modalities of, voluntary commitments referred to in this paragraph of the draft decision.

3. This annex provides relevant background information on the current strategic plan (section 2), summarizes the views submitted (section 3) and provides some points that may be considered by the Conference of the Parties as possible guidance for such voluntary commitments (section 4).

**II. BACKGROUND**

4. In addition to including goals and targets for achievement at the global level, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets provides a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets. In decision X/2, Parties and other Governments were urged to “develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and taking into account both the global targets and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, with a view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, and to review, and as appropriate, update and revise, their NBSAPs, in line with the Strategic Plan and the guidance adopted in decision IX/9, including by integrating their national targets into their NBSAPs, adopted as a policy instrument, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh or twelfth meeting”. In practice, few Parties met these timelines.

5. Further, the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and analyses prepared for SBI and COP by the Executive Secretary<sup>25</sup> show insufficient progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. There are both gaps in commitment (national targets that have been established tend to be less ambitious, on average, than the global Aichi targets) and in implementation (actual progress in achieving the targets). In addition, the Secretariat analysis shows that few NBSAPs are adopted as whole-of-government policy instruments.

6. During the initial discussions on the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework the possibility of promoting the development of voluntary biodiversity commitments in advance of the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has been raised, in part, as a possible means of addressing the issues identified above. The rationale for such voluntary biodiversity commitments (or advance national contributions) include the following points: (a) the development of national contributions could foster discussions across government and society and thus raise the level of

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<sup>25</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Rev.1, UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.1/Rev.1, UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.2/Rev.1.

political and stakeholder engagement in the process; (b) the early announcement of such contributions could provide momentum to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through peer-to-peer encouragement; and (c) the early announcement of such contributions could help to promote early implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once agreed.

7. Further national contributions could be complemented by voluntary commitments by other actors including sub-national and local governments, the private sector and civil society creating further momentum and action.

8. The experience gained under UNFCCC with regard to intended nationally determined contributions in the preparations for the Paris Agreement may be useful.<sup>26</sup>

### **III. ADDITIONAL VIEWS FROM PARTIES AND OBSERVERS**

9. Additional views regarding voluntary national commitments in support of the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework were provided among the views provided on the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>27</sup>

10. While there was general support for the promotion or encouragement of voluntary national commitments, a number of issues were raised:

(a) The relationship between voluntary national commitments and existing commitments made by Parties through the national targets expressed in their NBSAPs needs to be clarified;

(b) The role and function of NBSAPs should not be undermined or diminished by any voluntary national commitments;

(c) Commitments or pledges from non-State actors, including regional bodies and the private sector, need to be encouraged;

(d) The need to assess commitments based on indicators and the results achieved;

(e) The development of voluntary biodiversity commitments should not limit the ambition of any global biodiversity targets adopted as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### **IV. POTENTIAL SCOPE AND MODALITIES FOR VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS/CONTRIBUTIONS**

11. In the light of the proposal of SBI in its recommendation 2/19, paragraph 8, and the further views summarized above, the following points guidance have been developed regarding the potential scope and modalities for voluntary biodiversity commitments. When considering this issue, Parties may wish to take into account the following points:

(a) National contributions are voluntary;

(b) National contributions should be developed according to national priorities and circumstances and contribute to long-term sustainable development;

(c) National contributions should be commensurate with achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, should be tangible and measurable and contribute to the transformational changes needed on the pathway to achieve the 2050 Vision, including by intermediary milestones, such as 2030 and 2040;

(d) The Aichi Biodiversity Targets could serve as a guide for the scope and level of ambition for the development voluntary national contributions;

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<sup>26</sup> See decision 1/CP.19 Further advancing the Durban Platform (FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1) and Decision 1/CP.20 Lima Call for Climate Action (FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.1) as well as the synthesis report prepared by the Secretariat "Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update" (FCCC/CP/2016/2).

<sup>27</sup> All of the submissions received are available from <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/submissions.shtml>. Section II of the present document provides an overview of the views.

(e) National contributions should represent a progression beyond current commitments under the Convention;

(f) National contributions may build upon existing national commitments and actions such as those to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the objectives of the Paris Agreement under UNFCCC and the land-neutrality goal under UNCCD, among others;

(g) National contributions should support the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations across all economic and social sectors;

(h) Voluntary contributions, may also be developed and announced by actors such as sub-national and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private and financial sectors, civil society organizations and all relevant organizations and stakeholders. Such voluntary contributions are complementary to and supportive of national contributions;

(i) National contributions and other voluntary contributions should be developed and announced prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties so that they may contribute to the development of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework and advance its implementation;

(j) National contributions and other voluntary contributions should be communicated in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions;

12. The Executive Secretary should maintain a list of national contributions and other voluntary contributions on the Convention's clearing-house mechanism.

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