

Parties may wish to address the following questions:

- (a) How can the Convention on Biological Diversity further contribute to an inclusive, transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to One Health that reflects the full range of biodiversity-health linkages?
 - (b) How can the Convention on Biological Diversity contribute to ensuring that responses to COVID-19, including both short-term stimulus measures and longer-term approaches to 'build back better', contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, bearing in mind that such stimulus and recovery measures are already being designed and implemented?
 - (c) How should the interlinkages between biodiversity, health and pandemic risk be reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
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- We would like to thank all involved in organizing this special virtual session. We consider it important to advance in the process towards COP-15 and make use of the available time in the best way possible. In this context, it is important that we advance in the process with formal meetings of SBSTTA 24 and SBI-3 as soon as possible and in a virtual format if needed.
 - We welcome the topic of this special virtual session on Biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19.
 - With the ongoing human intervention in ecosystems, barriers between animals and humans are increasingly dissolving. Where habitats are continuously destroyed, the natural balance of species composition is disturbed and species that have never been in contact with each other before are brought closer together. This enables and accelerates the spread of pathogens to new host organisms, including humans.¹
 - The rapid and devastating spread of COVID-19 shows that nature and people share the same fate and are far more closely linked than most of us realized.
 - An ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework with the aim of living in harmony with nature by 2050 will also contribute to prevent and reduce diseases. Goals and Targets that aim at strictly regulating and controlling wildlife trade, expanding protected areas and increasing other effective area based conservation measures, as well as improving the connectivity between those areas are of particular relevance in this context.
 - Switzerland is of the view that a holistic approach will be central in tackling the current and future pandemic. In this context, the "One Health" approach can be of value, as it brings together expertise in medical, veterinary and environmental expertise and supports governments, companies and civil society in ensuring human, animal and environmental health.
 - We look forward to productive and successful discussions that will allow Parties and observers to gain further familiarity with the online platform and with the procedures for conducting meetings virtually. More virtual meetings might become necessary in order to avoid further delays in the negotiation process towards a post-2020 GBF.
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