

SHARM EL-SHEIKH DECLARATION

INVESTING IN BIODIVERSITY FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

FINAL DRAFT (15 November 2018)

We, the ministers and other heads of delegation, having met on the occasion of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt,¹ on 14 and 15 November 2018,

Biodiversity mainstreaming

Recalling the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being, adopted on 3 December 2016 during the high-level segment in Cancun, Mexico,²

Acknowledging that biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services it provides, support all forms of life on Earth and underpin human health and well-being, economic growth and sustainable development, including in the key economic sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing,

Noting that the increase in human population, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, and rapid urbanization, projected over the coming decades will lead to significant demand for resources associated with these sectors, posing significant risks to biodiversity and consequent risks for human well-being,

Recognizing, therefore, that the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors is essential for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ and the goals and objectives of other international agreements,

Reaffirming that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its set of integrated and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals, provides a framework for the balanced pursuit of economic, social and environmental objectives and, consequently, for the mainstreaming of biodiversity,

Emphasizing that the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, local governments and authorities, academia, the business and financial sectors, and other relevant stakeholders is essential for the mainstreaming of biodiversity,

Recognizing the need to promote alliances and develop coordinated approaches, and to better align goals, actions and resources within and across sectors, to mainstream biodiversity,

Also recognizing the role of good governance, and of science and traditional knowledge, for the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in all sectors,

1. *Commit* to working at all levels within our governments and across all sectors to mainstream biodiversity, establishing effective institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks tailored to national needs and circumstances and consistent with international obligations, and incorporating an inclusive economic, social and cultural approach with full respect for nature and human rights, through the following actions:

(a) Integrate the multiple values of biodiversity in relevant legislative and policy frameworks, development and finance plans and policy and decision-making processes at all levels, and encourage businesses to assess their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity to inform decision-making;

(b) Apply best practices for timely strategic environmental assessments and environment impact assessments, utilizing guidance adopted under the Convention, to avoid or minimize impacts on biodiversity of key economic sectors;

¹ Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, 17 to 29 November 2018, as well as the high-level ministerial segment of the meetings, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 14 and 15 November 2018.

² UNEP/CBD/13/24.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(c) Utilize and further develop planning tools, such as integrated spatial planning, to consider all available options for achieving development needs, while avoiding or minimizing negative impacts on biodiversity;

(d) Phase out or reform subsidies and other incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, and create incentives aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity in key economic sectors;

(e) Expand dialogue and exchange experiences and best practices among all actors involved in infrastructure development, including urban, transport and energy infrastructure, enhance cooperation between cities and regions, and mainstream the principles of healthy cities in urban planning, management, decision-making and development;

(f) Further develop communication, education and public awareness tools and messaging on the importance of conserving and sustainably using biodiversity to support changes in behaviour and decision-making at all levels and in all sectors;

(g) Mainstream biodiversity and health linkages into policies, plans and strategies, including national policies for health and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and regional and national development agendas;

(h) Strengthen the development and application of ecosystem-based approaches to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk-reduction, and to combat land degradation, while simultaneously contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(i) Promote sustainable consumption and production and a circular economy to avoid or minimize impacts on biodiversity from key economic sectors;

(j) Facilitate access to and transfer of relevant technologies, including biotechnologies, that contribute to the key sectors while avoiding or reducing negative impacts on biodiversity;

(k) Develop and/or strengthen synergies among relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

2. *Urge* the development agencies, businesses, financial institutions and other stakeholders to apply and support the above actions, as appropriate, and to use social and environmental safeguards in decisions and investments to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and further action

Noting that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its fourteenth meeting, is expected to establish a process for developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be considered at its fifteenth meeting;

1. *Commit* to:

(a) Accelerating efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including by implementing the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, as appropriate, and by providing and mobilizing international and national resources, thereby contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Supporting the development and implementation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, building on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a level of ambition and practicality that will facilitate the transformational changes needed to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, as noted in the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;⁴

⁴ Recommendation 21/1, annex.

(c) Promoting, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, voluntary biodiversity contributions by Parties and other actors towards achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

(d) Engaging indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, local governments and authorities, academia, the business and financial sectors, and other relevant stakeholders to support action towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and to provide momentum for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

2. *Welcome* the initiative of Egypt to promote a coherent approach for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ecosystem degradation;

3. *Invite* the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene a summit on biodiversity at the level of heads of State before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2020, in order to highlight the urgency of action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework which contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.