

*Annex***I. SUMMARY OF PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSIONS****A. Panel 1: What does Ecological Civilization mean for food, health, jobs, trade and education?**

1. The first moderated panel discussion considered the theme of ecological civilization with regard to food, health, jobs, trade and education, asking the panellists to share their perspectives on the meaning of ecological civilization with regard to their area of expertise and the mandate of their organization. Speakers were also requested to share views on their organization's respective contribution and responsibility in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and achieving the path towards an ecological civilization.

2. Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), highlighted the need to take into consideration environmental, ecological, and social perspectives to enable the transformation of agri-food systems and leave no one behind. Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO), pointed out that ecological civilization harnesses the potential of healthy ecosystems to ensure equitable access to clean air, fresh water, and a healthy urban environment and reiterated the relevance of holistic approaches to health, including One Health. Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa, Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization (ILO), emphasized the opportunity of a green recovery for a just transition towards economies that can be sustainable to all, advance employment rate and social protection. Mr. Qu Xing, Deputy Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), elaborated on the ethical ways of living with nature, highlighting the need to change how people behave and think about nature, including by leveraging the potential of natural World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves, using education programmes, and articulating synergies between economic development and biodiversity conservation policies.

3. All speakers supported the idea that the COVID-19 pandemic had massively disrupted economies and social systems, and that a just, green and healthy recovery should aim at fostering transformative change, including: (a) in agri-food systems, with a view to improving nutrition, ensuring food security, ending hunger and malnutrition; (b) in the promotion of healthy diets and lifestyles and a healthy environment, which could help lower the number of preventable deaths attributed environmental factors; (c) in the creation of employment opportunities and the enablement of social protection as well as green recovery packages aiming at greening economies; and (d) in the protection of nature, by leveraging educational programmes as well as the recognition of natural World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves to accelerate a shift towards ethical ways of living with nature.

4. Most speakers agreed that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework represented an opportunity to promote co-benefits and synergies, including with regard to the climate change agenda. Building on the leading work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and recognizing the importance of evidence-based decision-making, speakers elaborated on the opportunity to implement policies aimed at reversing biodiversity loss alongside other objectives, such as lowering greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing climate adaptation and mitigation, strengthening resilience, and improving productivity. Policy options for addressing, at the same time, biodiversity loss and climate change quoted in the moderated discussion included reducing harmful subsidies and unsustainable logging, promoting community-based management and multiple forest uses, and conserving ecosystems which are rich in carbon and species. Reflections shared by all speakers suggested that each sector, including the agri-food, health, employment, infrastructure, education and cultural sectors could be at the heart of collective efforts to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss.

5. All speakers emphasized the need for cross-sectoral collaboration and effective partnerships. The speakers referred to several multisectoral initiatives, including the FAO “One Country, One Commodity” initiative, the long-standing collaboration between WHO and the Convention on Biological Diversity and the recent joining of the United Nations Environment Programme with the Tripartite Alliance working on One Health approaches, the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative launched at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and led by ILO. Most speakers also referred to the importance of innovative governance approaches, the transformative potential of technology and innovation, including digital innovation. All speakers emphasized the importance of inclusive and multi-stakeholder approaches that could involve a broad range of actors while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Reference was also made to the contribution of multiple values and knowledge systems and the importance of promoting equitable access to the sharing of benefits.

6. All speakers concluded that the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Kunming Declaration represented an opportunity to build strong commitments and ambitious political will through joint forces as well as holistic approaches and synergies, with a view to achieving the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature and enabling the uptake of an ecological civilization.

### **B. Panel 2: Aligning finance and building capacity for an ecological civilization**

7. The second moderated panel discussed the topic of “Aligning finance and building capacity for an ecological civilization.” In particular, the first intervention addressed the question of how the World Bank would mainstream biodiversity and support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

8. Mr. David Malpass, President of the World Bank, stressed that biodiversity was a global public good and was also a key development issue. Low-income countries could forego about 10 per cent of their gross domestic product annually by 2030 if ecosystem services, such as those of forests, fisheries and pollinators, collapsed. Biodiversity and climate change were closely interlinked, with terrestrial and marine ecosystems serving as critically important carbon sinks. The World Bank had financed biodiversity conservation around the world, including over 116 million hectares of marine and coastal protected areas, 10 million hectares of terrestrial protected areas, and over 300 protected habitats, biological buffer zones and reserves. Many of the Bank’s investments in biodiversity benefited the poorest countries, which were least equipped to protect it. That was why nature-based solutions were a critical component of their new Climate Change Action Plan. The IDA20 replenishment was an opportunity for the World Bank Group to make an even greater contribution to biodiversity, with higher levels of support for nature-based solutions, restoration of landscapes, and integrated and sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems. He concluded by highlighting that the COVID pandemic, biodiversity loss and climate change were all reminders of how connected people were and that the recovery from the pandemic was an opportunity to put in place more effective policies, institutions and resources to address biodiversity loss.

9. Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), stressed that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was the most important road map for nature at that critical juncture. GEF, as the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, was committed to supporting countries in their efforts to implement the global biodiversity framework. The second meeting of the GEF-8 replenishment proposed an ambitious strategy for addressing the needs of Parties under the new framework and for which strong donor support had already been received. The GEF-8 integrated programming strategy had a strong focus on transformational change of economic systems to halt biodiversity loss, inclusiveness, and stakeholder engagement, while recognizing the need for mobilizing more domestic resources through investments in natural capital assessment and accounting, payments for ecosystem services, debt-for-nature swaps and other creative mechanisms at the national level. GEF, in partnership with UNDP and UNEP, was exploring the means to provide developing countries with financial and technical support to help fast-track implementation of the framework. In doing so, the vision for GEF-8 was the achievement of a healthy, productive and resilient environment that underpinned the well-being of human societies.

10. Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), underlined the fact that the world was facing a “triple crisis”: from accelerating climate change to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, to the degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity. As the *2020 Human Development Report* pointed out, it is now time for all countries to redesign their paths to progress. Finance is at the centre of this transformation. UNDP was helping countries and communities to drive forward “nature-positive” investments. Working with key partners, including the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund, UNDP supported a US\$ 3.2-billion portfolio in 138 countries that was invested in ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) was supporting 40 countries to develop and implement “biodiversity finance plans” that would mobilize large amounts of finance towards biodiversity. UNDP was also a co-founder of the Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures, which provided a framework for financial institutions and businesses to report on their impacts and dependencies on nature. He concluded by announcing that UNDP, UNEP and GEF were committed to providing the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity with new levels of financial and technical support as soon as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was finalized.

### **C. Panel 3: Promoting synergistic action for biodiversity, climate, land and oceans**

11. The third moderated panel was entitled “Promoting synergistic action for biodiversity, climate, land and oceans”. The main theme of the panel was how synergistic action could contribute to implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

12. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, highlighted the need for a more synergistic approach cross all Rio conventions and between the land and the oceans. He noted that all people shared one planet and interacted with land and oceans, and that that created a dependency and an impact on biodiversity which was challenged by climate change. He further elaborated that land was what bound together all social and economic sectors and, when land was degraded, carbon was emitted. He described the interaction between land degradation challenges and oceans, for example, 75 per cent of pollution going to the sea was from land-based sources. He noted that, as biodiversity was clearly connected to land, with a degradation in land systems directly related to species loss, there was a need for ARR: where “A” stood for “Avoiding the conversion of new land”, “R” stood for “Reducing the degradation of land” and “R” stood for “Restoration of degraded land”. In conclusion, he noted that there was an urgent need to find balance with nature, in that generation, and that a synergistic approach to land, climate and biodiversity was the only way to find a solution.

13. Ms. Patricia Espinosa, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, noted the importance of biodiversity in the upcoming Conference of the Parties on Climate Change as well as reflecting climate change in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. She stressed the interlinked threats of climate change and biodiversity loss with climate change threatening biodiversity loss and biodiversity loss creating further climate challenges in terms of adaptation and mitigation. Ms. Espinosa stated that integrated action on climate change and biodiversity was essential. She highlighted that there had already been some gains in terms of better integration of biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the biodiversity-related Sustainable Development Goals, in national climate change processes; specifically mentioning that based on an analysis of nationally determined contributions in 2016, 60 per cent identified biodiversity as an adaptation priority, and a similar analysis in 2020-21 found that 75 per cent of countries identified biodiversity as a priority. She shared some of the bold steps that some countries had already taken to include protected areas and forest restoration in nationally determined contributions. She noted that systematic collaboration would benefit climate and biodiversity and guide action towards a more sustainable planet, this would also have broader benefits for decreasing land degradation, improving food security and promoting sustainable forests.

14. Mr. Peter Thomson, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, noted that the world had reached a point where, if life on this planet was going to be secured, then there was no option except through improved coherence of multilateral processes. He elaborated that his view was not only about coordination of processes at the national level, but also at the global level. He noted the

importance of recognizing that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would not stand alone in a silo, but was a part of a broader global framework which included the Sustainable Development Goals, UNFCCC and other commitments. He noted that there were various models for how multilateral consensus could be reached and that that was possible through strong leadership and good facilitation. He explained that, through the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, there was an active effort to provide inputs in the UNFCCC process related to oceans and the sustainable ocean economy. He noted that a similar effort to include ocean science was also essential for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. He stated that the ocean was the planet's great bunker of biodiversity, containing 80 per cent of biodiversity, and that a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework was vital for ensuring coherent action across climate change, biodiversity loss and ocean health. For that, he stated the need for the very best of multilateralism.

15. Mr. Bruno Oberle, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), described the current global situation, whereby biodiversity continued to decline at unprecedented rates. He noted the need to halt and reverse the loss of nature by 2030 and to achieve recovery and restoration by 2050. He noted that nature-based solutions could provide up to 37 per cent of the climate change mitigation needed by 2030. Mr. Oberle stated that a post-2020 global biodiversity framework must be inclusive and integrate the mandates of the other biodiversity Rio Conventions in order to promote synergies across the conventions. He highlighted that protection of key biodiversity areas and of the oceans, including areas beyond national jurisdiction, is part of the solution. He stated that IUCN stood ready to help, including through offering a global standard for nature-based solutions as part of the commitment towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Additionally, he noted the strong need for funding and investment in nature to ensure that biodiversity goals could be implemented.

16. Ms. Rebecca Lent, Executive Secretary of the International Whaling Commission, spoke on behalf of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, which included the eight biodiversity-related conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the International Plant Protection Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the International Whaling Commission. She noted that the mandate of all of those conventions were related to biodiversity, including the links to nutrition, income and the well-being of people. She highlighted the importance of ensuring that the mandates of all the members being woven into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals, targets and indicators in order to promote synergic progress. Ms. Lent noted that a critical part of ensuring progress toward the biodiversity conventions is to reduce drivers and pressures. She concluded by emphasizing that the coordination across the biodiversity related conventions is vital at not only the international level, but at the national level, in order to promote coherent national action.

## **II. SUMMARY OF ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

### **A. Putting biodiversity on the path to recovery**

17. The round-table discussion was attended by approximately 600 participants. The meeting was opened by Co-Chair H.E. Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Vice-Minister of Ecology and Environment of China. Mr. Zhao invited participants of the round table to address the following questions:

(a) What changes or transitions consistent with achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity are already ongoing in your country and how will these be further supported?

(b) What actions will your Government take to ensure that biodiversity in your country is recovering by 2030?

(c) What concrete measures will your Government put in place to reduce the direct and underlying drivers of biodiversity loss?

(d) What support will your Government provide to the global community's efforts to place biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 and to reach the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity?

(e) What is the role of non-State actors in your country in reaching the 2050 Vision for biodiversity and what will your Government do to facilitate and support the engagement of all sectors of society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030?

18. In her introductory remarks, session Co-Chair H.E. Yasmine Fouad, Environment Minister of Egypt, stressed the need for the global community to reaffirm its commitment to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and to build on the commitments and actions of all stakeholders, including non-state actors, as highlighted in the Action Agenda for Nature and People. She stressed that COVID-19 recovery provided a major to realize the 2050 Vision and that, while it may be challenging to find solutions to address all of the threats facing biodiversity, the rewards are great.

19. Following Ms. Fouad's opening remarks, participants heard two introductory presentations:

(a) Professor Sandra Diaz, University of Cordoba and Co-chair of the IPBES Global Assessment, summarized the findings of IPBES, noting that the fabric of life on Earth is unravelling fast, largely due to the predominant model of appropriation of nature, but that it is not beyond repair if we urgently change course. She explained it is possible to put nature on a path to recovery, and to do so we must (i) consider, in a coordinated manner, the different facets of biodiversity (species, ecosystems, genetic diversity) and nature's contributions to people, (ii) address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, and (iii) ensure that that high levels of ambition are accompanied by equally ambitious concrete action targets and adequate resources.

(b) Mr. Wei Fuwen of the Zoology Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences highlighted the concept of "ecological civilization" which draws on the traditional wisdom of "the unity of man and nature" and "the way of nature" in ancient China, and uses a holistic approach to look at the relationship between man and nature. He underlined that a priority for China is to seek global cooperation to jointly promote innovation and coordination and to build science- and nature-based solutions to protect and repair the ecosystem in a holistic and coordinated way.

20. Following the two opening presentations, the Co-Chairs called on Ministers, heads of delegations and other high-level representatives to make interventions. Interventions were made by Ministers and high-level representatives of 33 Governments and the European Union. Three additional country statements were submitted.<sup>1</sup>

21. Overall, the theme of urgency pervaded the discussions, as many participants stressed that we cannot afford to repeat the same mistakes that led to the failure to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Many stressed that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework must mark an important turning point for the global community and that merely halting the loss of biodiversity is not enough; we must reverse the loss and achieve a nature-positive outcome through its implementation.

22. A major theme was building bridges and interconnections, including across issues such as climate change and poverty eradication, across different sectors, and across all elements of society. Various intergovernmental coalitions, addressing issues related to protected areas, waste, plastic, forests and pollinators, were also referred to. Many participants underlined the need to expand the active engagement of a wider range of stakeholders and to ensure that policies and actions outside of the traditional biodiversity realm successfully mainstream biodiversity considerations. In this respect many emphasized the need to shift practices in how we farm, fish, and manage our forests to more sustainable models.

23. Numerous interventions highlighted the need to better utilize solutions with mutually supportive benefits across different desired goals, building on successful approaches that protect nature while also supporting healthy economies and poverty alleviation. Some examples of biodiversity-friendly economic growth plans were highlighted, including through nature-based employment.

24. Many participants recognized the inextricable link between biodiversity, climate, economy, health and sustainable development, and noted the critical need to address the biodiversity and climate crises

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<sup>1</sup> [to be completed].

together. Here, participants highlighted ways in which their country's climate change actions are based on strengthening the capacity of ecosystems to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The enormous potential of nature-based solutions, with adequate social and environmental safeguards, was also highlighted by some participants.

25. The need to improve and deepen societal understanding of biodiversity and the services it provides was discussed, including through effective communication and education to heighten the awareness of the general public on biodiversity issues. Many highlighted the importance of valuing natural capital, with various participants showcasing efforts in their countries for the valuation of ecosystem services and the integration of these values into development models.

26. The importance of area-based conservation, including through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, was also a major topic of discussion. Many participants expressed their governments' support for a target of 30 per cent coverage of protected areas by 2030 target being included in the post-2020 framework. Many participants also emphasized the need to not only expand the coverage of protected areas, but also to improve the quality of area-based conservation. Various governments highlighted their own plans and efforts to expand and improve their protected areas and to integrate these into broader spatial planning.

27. Participants also offered specific examples of efforts underway to address waste and plastic pollution, including through the circular economy. Also highlighted was the importance of addressing species as a component of ecosystems and the need for the post-2020 framework to give special attention for species at risk.

28. Many participants emphasized the impacts and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, and noted how this crisis has brought to light the need to better integrate a One Health approach into planning. Participants also noted that the COVID-19 pandemic requires us to rethink our relationship with nature. Some noted that COVID-19 recovery plans, in particular, present a historic opportunity to build back better, placing nature at the centre of investments and efforts to reinvigorate economies.

29. Many also highlighted that the post-2020 framework presents a major opportunity to elevate partnerships with indigenous peoples and to further support the role of local communities, women, girls, and youth. In particular, many delegates underscored the need to reinforce the important role of indigenous peoples as guardians of biodiversity. Many also noted the importance of traditional knowledge in restoring nature, and in supporting rights-based approaches and territorial management of biodiversity and ecosystems.

30. Finally, many participants emphasized that the post-2020 framework should not remain only words on a page, but must be backed up by effective implementation and monitoring. Various participants stressed the need for robust and measurable indicators that will allow us to clearly see if we are on track to putting nature back on a path to recovery. Many called for increased financing to close the biodiversity financing gap and a number of participants highlighted new and expanded investments in nature, and some also highlighted the need for a new global biodiversity fund in order to ensure the achievement of the 2050 Vision.

## **B. Closing the financing gap and ensuring the means of implementation**

31. The round-table discussion was attended by approximately 380 participants. The meeting was opened by Co-Chair Mr. Guo Lanfeng, Deputy Secretary General, National Development and Reform Commission of China. Mr. Guo invited participants of the round table to address the following questions:

(a) What opportunities and challenges does your government have to eliminate harmful incentives and subsidies or redirect them to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use?

(b) What opportunities and challenges does your government have to mobilize additional financial resources from all sources, both domestically and internationally?

(c) How is your government promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as part of a sustainable recovery from COVID-19?

(d) What opportunities and challenges does your government have to develop enabling conditions for the business and finance sector to reduce/manage biodiversity risks and increase their funding for nature positive projects?

(e) What would your government include in your national biodiversity finance plan?

32. In her remarks, session Co-Chair H.E. Ms. Barbara Pompili, Minister of Ecological Transition, France, stressed the importance to increase the integration of biodiversity in economic sectors and the need to take more action on incentives and subsidies that are harmful for biodiversity. She highlighted the need to prioritize biodiversity-positive investments and to better identify and address biodiversity-related risks and impacts, in partnership with financial and non-financial institutions, as well as the important role of harnessing funding synergies among the Rio conventions in international biodiversity finance. In closing, she noted with appreciation several important initiatives to increase international biodiversity finance both from public and private actors.

33. Participants subsequently heard two introductory presentations:

(a) Professor Partha Dasgupta (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) reminded participants that nature is humankind's most precious asset and that there is an urgent need to invest more in nature, but also to restructure consumption and production patterns, reform our system to measure economic success, and transform our financial system by aligning financial flows with biodiversity positive outcomes;

(b) Mr. Ma Jun, Member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the People's Bank of China and Co-chair of the Research Workstream of Networking for Greening the Financial System, highlighted recent work undertaken in China to green finance and, referring to a recent report of the Network for Greening the Financial Sector (NGFS), underscored the important link between biodiversity and the global economy as well as financial stability, and the important role that the financial sector and regulators have to play.

34. Ministerial and high-level representatives from [to be completed] Governments made live webcast and recorded interventions.<sup>2</sup>

35. In the subsequent exchange of views by ministers, there was widespread agreement expressed that the size of the biodiversity financing gap requires urgent action, both at international and at domestic levels.

36. Many statements underscored the ongoing central role of international biodiversity finance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition and the need to significantly increase it. Several statements also highlighted the importance of intensified scientific, technical, and technological cooperation and capacity building, as well as of achieving the third objective of the Convention. The roundtable heard specific proposals on how to achieve this, including:

(a) The need for a strong eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8);

(b) The establishment of a dedicated global biodiversity fund, including a multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism, to be operated by the Global Environment facility;

(c) The need to strengthen the role of Global Climate Fund to achieve fast-track support to biodiversity and the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

37. A number of statements presented initiatives already undertaken to significantly increase international biodiversity finance:

(a) The establishment of the Legacy Landscapes Fund by Germany;

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<sup>2</sup> [to be completed].

(b) The commitment to spend 30 per cent of climate finance for biodiversity co-benefits by the French Development Agency (*Agence française de développement*);

(c) The commitment of the United Kingdom to invest at least £3bn of climate finance in nature and nature-based solutions;

(d) the second phase of the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the extension of its Satoyama Initiative in developing countries;

(e) The Kunming Biodiversity Fund, which was announced by President Xi Jinping during the Leaders' Summit.

38. At domestic level, many statements presented recent initiatives to invest more in biodiversity, such as: (a) the expansion of the protected area estate for instance in Belize, Georgia, or Pakistan; (b) using the polluter-pay model as a financing mechanism for nature protection in Croatia; (c) progress on ecosystem accounting in Pakistan; or the launch of the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond in Seychelles.

39. However, many statements also cautioned that the pandemic has made it more difficult to leverage domestic funds for biodiversity. As the world looks to build back better and move forward, it is therefore imperative to put biodiversity at the forefront of economic recovery and development.

40. In this context, a number of countries drew attention to the need to reduce economic activities that harm nature. Today, incentive policies and subsidies that support such harmful activities are significantly higher than global investments in biodiversity. Many observed that this needs to change and that more can and must be done to eliminate or reform such harmful subsidies.

41. A number of statements also noted the need to align financial flows with biodiversity positive outcomes, using international initiatives such as the Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting. A stronger involvement of public and private financial institutions is essential to expand green investment opportunities by applying innovative financial tools and products and to better manage the risks, dependencies and impacts of investments on biodiversity. The round table heard recent progress for instance from South Africa on this. Several statements observed that the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) will be key to move this critical agenda forward.

42. Several statements also mentioned the need to ensure synergies with climate funding in order to jointly address climate and biodiversity goals, for instance by using carbon markets for biodiversity objectives.

43. In closing the session, Co-chair Mr. Guo provided a brief summary of the session, expressed the appreciation of the co-chairs for a rich exchange, and thanked all speakers for their contributions and commitments to contribute to this central topic.

### **C. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development**

44. The roundtable discussion was attended by approximately 336 participants. The meeting was opened by Co-Chairs, Mr. Zhang Zhanhai, Vice Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources of China and Mr. Akif Özkaldi, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey. Mr. Zhanhai invited participants of the roundtable to address the following questions:

(a) How can your Government ensure that biodiversity is integrated into national development plans so it contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?

(b) Which mechanisms, tools or incentives are needed to effectively integrate biodiversity across economic sectors, and which sectors will you now prioritize for such mainstreaming?

(c) How can national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions under UNFCCC contribute to the post 2020 GBF and how can actions under the GBF contribute to the climate agenda?



(d) What actions will your government take to ensure food is produced in a way which works for nature, climate and people and support the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit?

(e) How will your government ensure a quick uptake of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure its successful implementation?

45. In his opening remarks, Mr. Özkaldi, highlighted how 15 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are linked to biodiversity issues and provided insights on his country's efforts to conserve biodiversity. He described that biodiversity must be fully integrated and mainstreamed and that actions must be taken to implement and monitor these plans. He emphasized the importance of countries collaborating globally on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in filling legislative gaps and in taking urgent action to address climate change in alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. He closed by expressing that the government of Turkey is honoured to host the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

46. Following Mr. Özkaldi's opening remarks, participants heard two introductory presentations from Professor Luthando Dziba, Head of Conservation Services for South African National Parks and Co-chair of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and from Mr. Gao Jixi, Director General of the Satellite remote sensing Centre in the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

47. Mr. Dziba highlighted that all major scientific reports show biodiversity is in decline. For example, since 1900, the world has seen a greater than 20 percent decline in the average abundance of native species in most major terrestrial biomes. The direct drivers of this loss are land- and sea-use change, direct exploitation, invasive alien species, climate change, and pollution among others. Underpinning these are indirect drivers, which can be leveraged for transformational change. He noted that Goals 14 and 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on the biosphere and as such underpin the health of societies and economies. He emphasized that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated and indivisible and illustrated that SDG1 to end poverty relies on biodiversity through, inter alia, provision of livelihoods and food resources. He outlined actions to move forward including to increase agricultural productivity, mitigate climate change, expand protected areas, reduce expansion of infrastructure, and reduce consumption and waste.

48. Mr. Gao Jixi, Director General of the Satellite remote sensing Centre in the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment, described that biodiversity has allowed people to develop from a primitive to a civilized society and indeed the future of human civilization and development depends on biodiversity. He outlined the strong relationship, appreciation and respect that China has always had with biodiversity. In fact, the foundations of agriculture lie in biodiversity, and history shows that people and the natural environment are interdependent. As the future of development relies on ecosystems and biodiversity there is a need to balance nature protection with economic development. He described how China has strengthened and innovated biodiversity protection as a model for the world, through the vision of President Xi.

49. Ministerial and high-level representatives from 26 Governments made live webcast and recorded interventions.<sup>3</sup>

50. Countries emphasized that challenges such as climate change, land degradation and food insecurity are intensified by biodiversity loss. Countries highlighted that the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, land and ecosystem restoration, food and water security, and providing the foundation for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, it was noted that coordination with other multilateral environmental agreements, such as UNFCCC and UNCCD will be critical to address these challenges. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should not only be aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

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<sup>3</sup> Bolivia (Plurinational State of); Nepal; Russian Federation; Sweden; Serbia; Belgium; Iceland; Algeria; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Singapore; Argentina; Peru; Ecuador; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); Cuba; Jamaica; Dominican Republic; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; Italy; Uruguay; Sudan; Mongolia; Fiji; Belarus.

Development, but it should contribute to it and be a complimentary tool to support its achievement. Furthermore, ecosystem-based approaches or nature-based solutions were highlighted as providing opportunities to amplify synergies and addressing the interconnected nature of biodiversity and climate change issues. These approaches are also efficient alternatives to protect, sustainably manage and restore damaged ecosystems.

51. Countries used the opportunity of this roundtable to share their achievements in establishing policies and in implementing actions for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity. They illustrated inspiring successes in species conservation, setting enabling conditions, weaving nature into urban environments, increasing or strengthening the governance of protected areas and in working with local communities. Many countries expressed views on the practical methods and considerations for implementing ecosystem-based approaches or nature-based solutions. They noted the importance of ecosystem restoration and of involving youth and indigenous peoples and local communities in the development and implementation of these approaches. Some delegates pointed to the need to consider the worldviews of indigenous peoples and local communities and their cultural wealth and to provide greater recognition of their role in conserving biodiversity. Countries provided examples of the use of nature-based solutions not only as an effective tool to address climate-related impacts but also as an opportunity to catalyze economic recovery and sustain livelihoods, including when faced with a deadly pandemic such as COVID-19.

52. Furthermore, several countries emphasized that biodiversity conservation and economic development must go together using a model based on natural ecosystems with some countries highlighting the importance of ensuring a green recovery from COVID-19 and of long-term solutions that provide multiple benefits. The achievement of both the socio-economic and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development was highlighted, while the need to strike a balance between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development was also stressed.

53. Many interventions supported the adoption of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Several delegates highlighted the importance of including access to and sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and biosafety, ensuring the three goals of the Convention are reflected in a balanced way, and that adequate and reliable financing, technology transfer and capacity-building are provided.

54. Various countries made reference to the goals and targets of the first draft of the global biodiversity framework, focusing on addressing the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss through the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity. They expressed their general support for a target to protect and conserve at least 30 per cent of our planet's land and sea by 2030. Countries also committed to updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to reflect and respond to the new global biodiversity framework.

55. An emphasis was made on the mainstreaming of biodiversity across different sectors of societies and economies and its importance in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The framework should facilitate cross-sectoral sustainable development in order to encourage the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity. It should also take a holistic approach in terms of addressing drivers of biodiversity loss and solutions to other environmental issues, such as climate change, desertification and land degradation and food security.

56. Several countries expressed their support for and welcomed the adoption of the Kunming Declaration "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth," highlighting its importance to ensure political commitment to adopt and implement an effective and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

57. Lastly, some delegates announced financial commitments to support nature-based solutions and to increase and enhance protected areas.

#### **D. Knowledge, innovation and benefit-sharing**

58. The round-table discussion was attended by approximately 178 participants. The meeting was opened by Co-Chair Mr. Zhang Yaping, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, assisted by Mr. Chen Xiin. The participants of the round table were invited to address the following questions:

(a) What measures will your government take to recognize the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and integrate them into decision-making?

(b) How can your government ensure the safe use of technology, maximizing its potential while minimizing associated risks, particularly to those in vulnerable situations?

(c) What measures will your government take to ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing from the use of genetic resources, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and new technologies?

59. Mr. Zhang indicated that knowledge and innovation advances provided support to the utilization and conservation of biodiversity. He reiterated the importance of participatory processes, access to public knowledge, communication and data and information exchange while taking into consideration developing countries' needs.

60. In his introductory remarks, session Co-Chair H.E. Mr. Carlos Correa Escaf welcomed participants and noted that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework presented a unique opportunity for the creation and transfer of technology, as well as to improve access to genetic resources and increase the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. He also mentioned that science, innovation and technology were fundamental for the development of the bio-economy.

61. Following Mr. Correa Escaf's opening remarks, participants heard two introductory expert presentations:

(a) The first presentation was delivered by Prof. Rachel Wynberg from the University of Cape Town (South Africa). She underlined the context of dramatic technological changes and evolving practices in international scientific collaboration since the adoption of the Convention in 1992. Her presentation highlighted three key points, namely the importance of all knowledge systems, the importance of horizon scanning and monitoring and assessing new and emerging technologies, and the need to ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing from biotechnology, synthetic biology and associated applications, including addressing the challenge of digital sequence information (DSI), for a more sustainable, equitable and biodiversity-rich future for all. Prof Wynberg stressed that fundamental questions still remain about who owns and who benefits from DSI and new technologies, and that disparities in research capacity, technology, finances and intellectual property rights have been major constraints preventing the full inclusion of the global South in technology developments;

(b) The second presentation was delivered by Prof. Ma Keping from the Botany Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, through which he highlighted the importance of knowledge, innovation and benefit-sharing in the context of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties which will adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. He noted the critical importance of increasing technology transfer, capacity-building, and technical and scientific cooperation in this regard.

62. After the two introductory presentations, the floor was opened for interventions made by Ministers or high-level representatives of 16 Governments.<sup>4</sup>

63. Several participants noted that current crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and biodiversity loss call for reconsideration of the relationship with nature. In particular, it was mentioned that recent public actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic offered key lessons on the importance of developing a green economy.

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<sup>4</sup> [to be completed].

64. In this context, participants highlighted the importance of knowledge-sharing and integrating all knowledge systems as key to improving outcomes for biodiversity, with the potential of increasing partnerships between traditional knowledge holders and environmental scientists to bring to light innovative approaches to biodiversity management and climate change. It was also noted that global challenges such as climate change reinforce the need for knowledge-based solutions. As custodians of biodiversity, indigenous peoples and local communities were highlighted as key partners in our path to living in harmony with nature, and several examples of successful partnerships and biodiversity co-management initiatives were shared from different regions.

65. Many speakers acknowledged the rapid technological changes and advances of the past decades as well as the important contributions of science and technology to address some of the major challenges mentioned above. Several speakers offered recent examples of technology applications in immediate biodiversity conservation efforts. However, they also recognized that not everyone has been able to benefit equitably from the access, deployment and use of such technologies and thus emphasized the importance of scientific collaboration and technology transfer, in particular aimed at developing countries, in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

66. With regard to new and emerging technologies, many speakers recognized the importance of the precautionary principle and the need to avoid or minimize potential risks related to their deployment and use. Several speakers mentioned the relevance of regular horizon scanning, as well as the monitoring and assessment of technological developments, in consultation with potentially affected groups. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was noted as a key instrument whose strengthened implementation would contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

67. Several speakers noted the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors of the economy, focusing on whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches. They also emphasized the importance of implementing the Convention and its Protocols in synergy with other multilateral environmental agreements. They noted the key links to be made between the biodiversity loss and climate change crises, particularly affecting small island developing States. It was further noted that regional and subregional institutions and participation therein could play a key role in coordinating and advancing implementation of these instruments.

68. The implementation of national frameworks for access and benefit-sharing, in particular providing for the valorization of endogenous genetic resources, remains a priority for many countries. Speakers noted that the principles of the Nagoya Protocol, based on fairness, equity and legal certainty, as well as the recognition of key role of indigenous peoples and local communities and their involvement in access and benefit-sharing processes, including through the development of community protocols, are useful and relevant in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. However, several speakers acknowledged the ongoing challenge of ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, in view of the increasing use of digital sequence information on genetic resources in scientific research and innovation. Still, it was recognized that invaluable benefits for biodiversity and conservation were arising from access to such information.

69. Participants also made important commitments towards an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including to strengthen their scientific capacity, to use science to inform policy, to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and to work together with international partners to achieve real transformative change, among others.

70. Finally, many speakers stressed that the success of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework relied on adequate means of implementation at all levels, including capacity-building, capacity development and knowledge and experience-sharing for the use of new technologies.

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