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Agenda item 25

Biodiversity and climate change

Working Group II

Biodiversity and climate change

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group II

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [VII/15](#) of 20 February 2004, [IX/16](#) A to D of 30 May 2008, [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010, [XI/19](#), [XI/20](#) and [XI/21](#) of 19 October 2012, [XII/20](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/4](#) of 13 December 2016, [14/5](#) of 29 November 2018 and [15/24](#) and [15/30](#) of 19 December 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ and, in particular, the critical threat to biodiversity posed by climate change and its role in adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, while stressing the importance of considering climate change beyond Targets 8 and 11 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework² when implementing the Framework,

Recognizing that biodiversity loss, climate change, ocean acidification, desertification, land degradation, invasive alien species and pollution, among others, are interdependent crises that need to be addressed urgently and in a coherent and balanced manner to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ and the Paris Agreement,⁴ as well as target 15.3, on land degradation neutrality, of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development⁵ and targets set out under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,⁶ in a manner consistent with the mandates and respective guiding principles of multilateral environmental agreements,⁷

Recalling General Assembly resolution 76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and Human Right Council resolution 57/28,⁸

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² Decision 15/4, annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

⁷ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁸ A/HRC/49/53.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 78/155 of 19 December 2023, in which Parties to the Convention were urged to ensure the coherence and complementarity of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with other existing or upcoming international processes, in particular with regard to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other related processes, frameworks and strategies,

Taking note of the joint statement on climate, nature and people, issued on the margins of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which promoted accelerated and integrated action for climate, nature and sustainable development,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 6/4 of 1 March 2024, entitled “Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instrument”,

Stressing that achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement is highly critical to avoid further biodiversity loss and land and ocean degradation and to achieve the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature, and will require transformative change,

Stressing also that the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is highly related to urgent and effective action on climate change in line with the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement, and vice versa, in particular through the rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions to keep the [1.5 °C goal][temperature goals of the Paris Agreement] within reach, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change on biodiversity,

Recalling decision 15/13 of 19 December 2022, in which the Conference of the Parties took note of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022 on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development, in which the Environment Assembly recognized that nature-based solutions might contribute significantly to climate action, while recognizing the need for analysis of their effects, including in the long term, and acknowledging that they did not replace the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but could improve action for adaptation and resilience to and the mitigation of climate change and its impacts,

Noting that, at its sixth session, the United Nations Environment Assembly considered a draft resolution on the development of criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation of nature-based solutions, and that the process may continue,

Emphasizing that biodiversity and ecosystem integrity plays an important role in combating climate change and its impacts and that conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems, inclusive of animal populations, are effective options for mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction and constitute actions towards minimizing the impacts of climate change, in particular when the knowledge, governance and stewardship practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are integrated,

Deeply concerned that the rapidly increasing impacts of climate change, which exacerbates biodiversity loss and weakens the delivery of crucial ecosystem functions and services, amplify existing threats to species and can push vulnerable populations beyond their survival limits, increasing the risk of extinction of such species,

Recognizing the essential functional role of biodiversity in underpinning the integrity of ecosystems and ecosystem services, and that protecting and restoring ecological integrity contributes to addressing both climate change and biodiversity loss,

Emphasizing that maintaining ecological corridors and promoting landscape connectivity are crucial for enabling species to either migrate to suitable climatic locations or adapt to new conditions, which is particularly urgent in the context of climate change and its impact on habitats,

Deeply concerned that the increasing anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide leading to increased carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are causing ocean acidification and elevated temperatures, including marine heatwaves and deoxygenation, with severe consequences for marine life, in particular coral reefs and other sensitive marine ecosystems, species and life histories,

Recognizing the crucial role and capacity of the ocean in regulating the climate, and noting the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues 2023 and 2024 under the United Nations Framework Convention, in which reference is made to the need for strengthened institutional linkages across various mandates and processes, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to enhance global ambition and action for a climate-resilient ocean,

[*Recognizing also* that biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to climate change are decreased by [adverse adaptation and mitigation][maladaptive] actions, which can have adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, people in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and undermine climate action,]

Recognizing further that climate geoengineering activities, including marine and solar geoengineering activities, could result in serious and irreversible impacts on biodiversity and the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, and deeply concerned that the growth of uncontrolled geoengineering field experiments that may cause harm to biodiversity and people are proposed or under way,

Emphasizing the need for enhanced international cooperation and synergies between Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant existing organizations, partnerships, initiatives and coalitions, including through capacity-building and development, technical and scientific transfer, cooperation and access to and the transfer of technologies, on mutually agreed terms, to strengthen national capabilities to anticipate and monitor the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystems and biodiversity-dependent communities,

Recalling decision 15/8 of 19 December 2022, in which the Conference of the Parties recognized that many Parties, in particular developing country Parties, might not yet have the capacities necessary to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and highlighting the need for enhanced cooperation to address those capacity gaps,

1. *Welcomes* the *Sixth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,⁹ and takes note of its findings;

2. *Also welcomes* decision 10/1 of 2 September 2023 of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Plenary, in which the Plenary decided to foster further collaboration between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

3. *Urges* Parties, when undertaking actions towards the achievement of Targets 8 and 11, as well as related targets, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities and with their respective obligations under relevant multilateral environmental agreements to implement effective social and environmental safeguards:

(a) To be consistent with Section C and Target 22 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(b) To identify and maximize potential synergies between biodiversity and climate actions, including by prioritizing the protection, restoration and management of ecosystems and species important for the full carbon cycle and contributing to climate change adaptation;

⁹ Hoesung Lee and others, eds., *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report – Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (Geneva, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2023).

(c) To promote the positive, and avoid and, if not possible, minimize the negative impacts of climate actions on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, functions and services, including for vulnerable species, ecosystems important for the full carbon cycle or to which damage is irreversible, in particular for indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders that directly depend on biodiversity;

(d) To consider integrating and promoting, where appropriate, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, non-market-based approaches and Mother Earth-centric actions, as recognized by some countries, to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction into their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans and relevant national targets, as appropriate, and to promote synergies with other national planning processes established under biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, as well as under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, in coordination with the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, including through national coordination, planning, review and reporting processes, as applicable, in a complementary and synergistic manner;

(e) To take into account the diversity of values, worldviews and knowledge systems including traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the intersectional approaches to ensure contextually relevant actions for respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights and enhancing empowerment, agency and intergenerational equity and the protection of indigenous peoples and local communities rights over their lands, territories and resources, and that potential synergies between biodiversity and climate actions that have a direct or indirect impact on land rights or human rights, as well as the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, should only be undertaken with their free, prior, and informed consent,¹⁰ subject to national legislation and consistent with international instruments;

4. *Encourages* Parties to use the tools and information available under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction,¹¹ or its updated versions, if determined by Parties, as well as relevant tools and guidance developed under other biodiversity-related conventions, such as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat;¹²

5. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments at all levels and relevant organizations, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, to take into account the existing and projected impacts of climate change and climate-related policies on biodiversity when implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

6. *Reaffirms* decision IX/16 C, on ocean fertilization, paragraph 8 (w) of decision X/33, and decisions XI/20 and XIII/14 of 9 December 2016 on climate-related geoengineering, and urges Parties, and encourages other Governments, to ensure their implementation;

[7. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant stakeholders, when undertaking actions towards the achievement of Targets 8 and 11, as well as related targets, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, to act in accordance with Article 20 of Convention and consistent with Target 19 of the Framework, and in line with decision 16/-- on resource mobilization, [with a view to avoiding double counting and enhancing transparency, by optimizing and accurately] and transparently account[ing] [and report[ing] co-benefits and synergies of finance from all sources];]

¹⁰ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

¹¹ Decision 14/5, annex; see also [CBD Technical Series No. 93](#) for complementary information.

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

8. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to assess, manage and avoid or minimize the potential adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity that could arise from the economic and sectoral transitions undertaken as a response to the climate change crisis;

9. *Takes note* of the intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in compliance with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5;

10. *Welcomes* decision 1/CMA.5 of 13 December 2023 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in particular its paragraphs 33, 34, 55, 63 (d) and 163;

11. *Stresses* the importance of national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity engaging with their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Convention on Wetlands counterparts and of enhancing collaboration among Parties to those conventions to raise awareness of relevant interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change so as to support relevant national planning processes, in line with national commitments, circumstances and priorities, as appropriate;

12. *Invites* the respective bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its Parties, to consider using the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction for Parties to integrate biodiversity and social safeguards in mitigation and adaptation measures;

13. *Calls upon* the President of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to engage the Presidents of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention, respectively, on opportunities for strengthened multilateral coordination on climate change and biodiversity loss;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including when supporting activities undertaken under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to promote synergies and closer cooperation with the biodiversity-relevant multilateral environmental agreements, organizations and processes, and integrated approaches to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ocean degradation;

15. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, avoiding the duplication of efforts and enhancing synergies, as appropriate, guided by the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development,¹³ to facilitate the collaboration among parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant existing organizations, partnerships, initiatives and coalitions to implement capacity-building, especially for developing countries, in particular for least developed countries and small island developing States, and to increase awareness and understanding of the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change, including the impacts of climate change and climate action on biodiversity, and the role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in climate change mitigation and adaptation;

16. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat, to explore opportunities for addressing the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus in an integrated manner in order to achieve the goals of the Framework;

[17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding the duplication of efforts, to develop a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and

¹³ Decision 15/8, annex I.

Disaster Risk Reduction providing voluntary guidance and tools based on good practices for the design, effective implementation and scaling up, as appropriate, of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation to support the implementation of Targets 8 and 11, as well as other related targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, where appropriate, consistent with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, noting nature positive and Mother Earth-centric actions as recognized by some countries, reflecting [section C of the Framework][the relevant principles of the respective multilateral environmental agreements], in line with different national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, including updating guidance for fit-for-purpose social and environmental safeguards, based on existing safeguards, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

18. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding the duplication of efforts, to develop guidelines and tools for carrying out conservation and restoration in a changing climate;

[19. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to bring the present decision to the attention of the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa in order to discuss it in the context of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and to assess options for enhancing coordination and policy coherence on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement, including by organizing an informal technical information exchange and/or considering the possibility of establishing a joint work programme to operationalize such integration, and for consideration by the relevant bodies of each convention, with the support of the Global Environment Facility, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, the Green Climate Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, as appropriate;

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to hold a joint Convention on Biological Diversity-United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change expert meeting on biodiversity and climate change in 2025, to further explore options to enhance coordination and policy coherence to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement, [especially on technical issues relating to loss and damage,] and to prepare a summary report of the expert meeting for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at a meeting before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and other bodies, as appropriate;

21. *Encourages* Parties[, observers and relevant stakeholders] to submit their views on options to enhance policy coherence among the Rio conventions, such as areas for potential joint work programmes among the Rio conventions, and requests the Executive Secretary to compile those options into a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at a meeting before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and other bodies, as appropriate;]

22. *Invites*, in line with paragraph 9 of decision XI/20, Parties, other governments, observers and relevant organizations to provide information on measures undertaken at the national or other level, as appropriate, in relation to paragraph 8 (w) of decision X/33 or decision IX/16 C, and requests the Executive Secretary to compile the information submitted and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism.