

Special Virtual Session for CBD SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3 on Biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19

15.-16. desember 2020

OPENING STATEMENT NORWAY

Thank you, Madame/Mister Chair,

First of all, Norway would like to thank the Secretariat, and others involved in organizing this special virtual session on health and biodiversity. Allowing continued work during these difficult times.

- As we enter the 12th month of the covid-19 pandemic it is not difficult to agree that pandemics represent an unparalleled threat to the health and welfare of people across our planet.
- We are also increasingly aware that the continued loss of biodiversity is a health risk multiplier, and a major driver in the emergence of pandemic threats such as covid-19.

[IPBES REPORT]

- The recent IPBES report on pandemics is clear: “The same human activities that drive climate change & biodiversity loss also drive pandemic risk through impacts on our environment”,
- This underscores the importance of our work to create a successful post-2020 global biodiversity framework that succeeds in fostering transformative change across society and a holistic approach that integrates biodiversity and health concerns
- Without preventative strategies, we can expect that pandemics will emerge more often, spread more rapidly and do more damage than covid-19.
- While the concept of one health has been with us for some decades now, we perhaps only now slowly truly understand the importance of the synergies between disciplines it requires and the impact its solutions and approaches can bring to the table.

[ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE – ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE]

- In Norway one health is a concept that has attracted attention from both the scientific community and authorities.
- Work on Antimicrobial resistance is a good example on how different ministries in Norway have come together to design and implement a truly trans-disciplinary policy connecting all the dimensions of one health: humans, animals, and environment.
- We have established AMR reduction targets. For animals, including farmed fish, for the period 2015-2020, and are proud to have reached all of them.
- Next week we are aiming at releasing an updated report summarizing knowledge gaps in antibiotic resistance from a Norwegian perspective.

- The report is a result of cross sectorial work across four different governmental departments.

Norway is happy to witness that the one health vision is, making its way forward.

Thank you.