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Agenda item 9

COMMITMENTS FROM ACTORS OTHER THAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF AN ENHANCED PLANNING, MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING MECHANISM

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision 14/34, the Conference of the Parties encouraged indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, to consider developing, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, biodiversity commitments¹ that might contribute to an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to make such information available as a contribution to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.²
2. At the first part of its third meeting, held from 16 May to 13 June 2021, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation discussed options for an enhanced implementation, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism under the Convention, which included commitments from actors other than national Governments. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on options to enhance planning, reporting and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention (CBD/SBI/3/11). The Subsidiary Body established a contact group to address this item.
3. The outcome of the group's deliberations was reflected in a draft recommendation prepared by the Chair on options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention (CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5). The Subsidiary Body decided to defer adoption of the draft recommendation until part II of the meeting.
4. Paragraph 14 of CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5 contains a proposal to invite indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, other multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, youth groups, research organizations, the business and finance community and representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, to develop commitments in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, using a template. A footnote indicates that these are to be prepared in the light of further discussions, including at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This is also reflected

¹ In the present document, the term "commitment" means a pledge to take action and to inspire others to improve the state of biodiversity through different approaches and measures, based on science, and aligned with one or more of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

² See <https://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-14/annoucement/nature-action-agenda-egypt-to-china-en.pdf>. See also <https://www.cbd.int/portals/action-agenda/>

in the list of intersessional work arising from part I of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body, annexed to the report on that meeting (CBD/SBI/3/20).

5. Accordingly, and to assist the Subsidiary Body in its further consideration of this matter, on the basis of draft recommendation contained in CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5, the discussions during the first part of the meeting of the Subsidiary Body and in the light of the experience under the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People,³ the Executive Secretary has developed items to be considered for such a template. The present document captures core elements for reporting from actors other than national Governments.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUDING COMMITMENTS FROM ACTORS OTHER THAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN AN ENHANCED PLANNING, MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING MECHANISM

6. The engagement of actors other than national Governments can facilitate the creation of new multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration, test innovative approaches, mobilize private finance, offer new knowledge, and raise interest among sectors traditionally impacting biodiversity loss to take on biodiversity commitments. However, there could be risks emerging from greenwashing and negative influencing on the intergovernmental process. To counter these risks and enhance accountability and transparency, commitments from actors other than national Governments should be aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The objective of accountability and transparency measures for commitments from actors other than national Governments should thus include demonstrating how their commitments support and impact the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

7. To avoid heavy monitoring and reporting requirements, measures could build on existing data gatherers and providers, using agreed indicators to measure performance against the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

8. The collation of commitments from actors other than national Governments should build upon the experiences under the Action Agenda with existing reporting processes for actors other than national Governments, including sustainability standards, to reinforce alignments with the post-2020 goals, targets and indicators and assessments of the direct and indirect contributions to the post-2020 framework. The Action Agenda could also be used to incentivize existing commitments from actors other than national Governments and to continue to provide a space for dialogue and exchange on collaborative initiatives, challenges and developments to reach the framework's goals and targets.

9. The following conditions are proposed so that biodiversity commitments and impacts from actors other than national Governments can be analysed and accounted for in a manner that corresponds to the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in the context of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting framework:

(a) Standardized guidelines and templates for reporting and verifying commitments which can be used to improve global level analysis and aggregation into coalition stocktakes and gap reports. This could also help facilitate access to information which can be used as a basis for national and regional analyses;

(b) Developing and promoting the use of metrics, as per the methodology under the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and other methodologies, for corporate and subnational and local authorities. This may include the identification and monitoring of dependencies and impacts on biodiversity by corporate and other entities;

(c) Encouraging those actors who have yet to submit commitments,⁴ to do so underscoring actions that address one or more specific post-2020 target(s), within one year after the adoption of the post-

³ More information is included CBD/SBI/3/INF/20.

⁴ For actors who have already submitted their commitments as per decision 14/34, the Secretariat will facilitate measures to update their commitments on the online Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.

2020 global biodiversity framework, in order to align with the cycles of national commitments and prior to the proposed global gap report to facilitate the analysis of these commitments;

(d) Continuing to collate standardized commitments from actors other than national Governments, and refining and enhancing interoperability, as needed, to expand the integrated search function under the Action Agenda and take measures to avoid double counting;

(e) Enhancing collaboration with related multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental sustainability processes working with actors other than national Governments and multi-stakeholder initiatives, inter alia, to benefit from cross-thematic stocktakes and dialogues and to identify and promote sector specific reporting; among other pilot project activities associated with non-State actors (such as TNFD, Science-based Targets Network (SBTN), the pledge by multilateral development banks on biodiversity and climate, the Protecting Our Planet Challenge, the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance, the Clydebank Initiative for Green Shipping Corridors, and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Land Use, etc.).

10. Guidelines and templates for reporting and verifying commitments are being developed by the coalitions of actors other than national Governments in collaboration with the Secretariat in order to both meet the needs of particular coalitions and advance the conditions listed in paragraph 7 above in a way that allows commitments made by these actors to be standardized as per the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and analysed in order to provide a more complete account of ambition by all actors. This information could be used by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies to assess the global aggregate level of ambition and identify possible gaps. In the event where Parties submit joint commitments with actors other than national Governments, including subnational actors, appropriate measures would be taken to minimize double counting as described in the draft guidance for updating or revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.4).

*Annex***CORE REPORTING ELEMENTS FOR ACTORS OTHER THAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS**

Note: Reporting of actors other than national Governments may occur via the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People or via reporting through a stakeholder coalition. The fields identified below represent a minimum set of pieces of information which are needed in order to analyse the commitment in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including for global aggregation. Additional information may be included in the various reporting initiatives which go beyond this core set of information. Commitments which do not include this minimum information may still be included in various reporting initiatives; however, commitments without these core elements are not included in the enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism under the Convention.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Organization (the name of lead organization).
2. Website (the website address for the lead organization).
3. Name of focal point in the organization (full name of focal point contact in the organization).
4. Email of focal point (email address for the focal point in the organization).
5. Location (where your organization's headquarters is located).
6. Geographic scope (local, national, regional or multinational).
7. Type of organization (academic and research institute; financial institution; company/corporation (specify the sector); indigenous peoples and local communities; national or regional initiative; non-governmental organization; private foundation; subnational or local government; regional organization; intergovernmental organization/initiative; United Nations system entity; youth organization; other (please specify)).

COMMITMENT

8. Title (the title or name of the commitment/action).
9. To which target(s) of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is the commitment aimed at contributing:
 - (a) Primary target (single selection of the most relevant target);
 - (b) Other relevant targets (multiple targets possible).
10. Description (a short summary of the commitment, providing (a) an overview of scope of the actions proposed (for example in terms of the area and/or number of people targeted) and (b) its intended outcome and its contribution to the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (including, as appropriate, positive contributions to biodiversity as well as reduced negative impacts on biodiversity).
11. Expected impact.
12. Theme(s) (ideally aligned with the action themes: food systems and health; freshwater, coastal and ocean ecosystems; conservation and restoration of land ecosystems; climate change mitigation and adaptation; conservation and sustainable use of species; sustainable consumption and production; stewardship/good governance; urban sustainability; green finance; biosafety; and access to benefit-sharing).
13. Sustainable Development Goal(s) to which the commitment contributes (optional).
14. Partners (other organizations involved in the commitment).

PROGRESS TRACKING

15. Timeline (start and end dates for the commitment):
 - (a) Is this a one-time or recurrent commitment? If recurrent, indicate the duration.
 16. Key performance indicators (KPIs) or other indicators of measurable success (such as percentages, numbers or other quantitative pieces of information);
 17. Monitoring and reporting (indicate if monitoring arrangements are in place and the format, frequency and public availability of reporting).
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