



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Seventeenth meeting

Yerevan, 19–30 October 2026

Items 5 and 7 to 20 of the provisional agenda*

**Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference
of the Parties**

**Administration of the Convention on Biological
Diversity, budget for the trust funds and functional
review of the Secretariat**

Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Planning, monitoring, reporting and review

**Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions
of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to
indigenous peoples and local communities**

Digital sequence information on genetic resources

**Matters relating to support mechanisms for the
implementation and awareness of the Convention
on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework**

**Cooperation with international organizations
and bodies established under other conventions**

**Mainstreaming of biodiversity and engagement
with subnational governments**

Gender Plan of Action

Synthetic biology

**Scientific and technical needs to support the
implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global
Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the
work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-
Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem
Services**

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implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global
Biodiversity Framework**

**Review of the effectiveness of processes under the
Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols**

**Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of
the Parties**

Compilation of draft decisions for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

The present note contains a compilation of draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventeenth meeting. The compilation comprises the draft decisions contained in the recommendations from the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the sixth and seventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, as well as additional elements developed by the Secretariat in the light of, inter alia, previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties or recommendations of its subsidiary bodies. The mandates for such additional elements are provided in the documents prepared under each relevant agenda item of the present meeting. Items for which no draft decision is envisaged or has been prepared are also indicated in the compilation, with an explanatory note, for the sake of providing an exhaustive list of items.

* [CBD/COP/17/1/Rev.1](#).

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Items 1 to 4 and 6

1. No draft decisions are envisaged under items 1 to 4 and 6, owing to the nature of those items. The actions required on the part of the Conference of the Parties for those items are reflected in the annotated provisional agenda.¹

¹ [CBD/COP/17/1/Rev.1/Add.1.](#)

Item 5

Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

The following draft decision has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of previous similar decisions.

Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [XIII/33](#) of 17 December 2016, in which the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity² set, in line with rule 21, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure for its meetings,³ the rotation of the office of the President among the five United Nations regional groups, starting from its seventeenth meeting,

Taking note with appreciation of the offer made by the Government of [placeholder] to host the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁴ and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization,⁵

1. *Decides* that the eighteenth meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization will be held [placeholder], in the last quarter of 2028;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of [placeholder], with a view to negotiating a hosting arrangement in conformity with the applicable resolutions of the United Nations and in compliance with the guidelines for the preparation of host government agreements falling under General Assembly resolution 40/243⁶ in order to conclude and sign a host country agreement at least six months before the date of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Invites* interested Parties from among the African States to notify the Executive Secretary in a timely manner of their offers to host the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 3061.

³ Decision [I/1](#), as amended in decision [V/20](#).

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁶ ST/AI/342.

Item 7**Administration of the Convention on Biological Diversity,
budget for the trust funds and functional review of the Secretariat**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [6/9](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Functional review of the Secretariat*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the executive summary of the report on the external in-depth functional review of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁷ as contained in annex I to document [CBD/SBI/6/10](#), and notes the additional actions requested by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in its recommendation 6/9 of 19 February 2026;
2. *Notes* the outcome of the functional review, [and welcomes the updated structure of the Secretariat,] which should lead to enhanced synergies and efficiencies within the Secretariat;
3. *Notes with appreciation* the follow-up actions taken by the Executive Secretary,⁸ namely:
 - [(a) The initiation of the implementation of short- and medium-term actions proposed in the functional review, including an updated organizational structure;]
 - [(b) The updated or developed job descriptions, including classification, of existing and additional posts, respectively, required to implement a structural and strategic alignment with the core functions and strategic priorities of the Secretariat;]
 - [(c) The analysis of the associated staffing and cost implications of the long-term structural and strategic alignment;]
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To continue to implement the ongoing and remaining actions that: (i) align with the core functions of the Secretariat, in particular the servicing of meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols, and the strategic priorities determined by the Conference of the Parties; (ii) enhance operational efficiency; and (iii) align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁹ as recommended in the functional review, in line with the Secretariat staffing requirements adopted in the core budgets of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2027–2028;
 - (b) To ensure the implementation of recommendations of the functional review that are in line with the core functions of the Secretariat, as established in Article 24 of the Convention, Article 31 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁰ and Article 28 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;¹¹
5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to keep the Parties informed through the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, in a transparent manner, of progress in implementing the ongoing and remaining actions recommended in the functional review;
6. *Also recommends* that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, at its twelfth meeting, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, at its sixth meeting, take note of the executive

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁸ See [CBD/COP/17/4/Add.4](#).

⁹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

summary of the report on the external in-depth functional review of the Secretariat and note the additional actions requested by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the present recommendation.

The following draft decision has been reproduced from document [CBD/COP/17/4](#).

Proposed budget for the programmes of work of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2027–2028

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision [16/28](#) of 6 December 2024,

Having considered the information contained in documents prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹² related to the item on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the trust funds on the agenda of its seventeenth meeting,¹³

Acknowledging the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the external in-depth functional review of the structure of the Secretariat, as reported by the Secretariat in document [CBD/COP/17/4/Add.4](#),

Recognizing the efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen the long-term and strategic alignment of its functions and structure through the functional review, and noting the associated staffing and resource gap for the Secretariat to be fully operational in line with the core mandates of the Convention and its Protocols, as well as priorities determined by the Conference of the Parties, in particular the provision of support for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁴

Welcoming with appreciation the financial contributions from developed country Parties to the special voluntary trust funds to facilitate the participation of Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities in the processes of the Convention and its Protocols,

Recognizing the fiscal constraints on Parties, and noting with concern that the participation of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition in meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols has been adversely affected by the lack of predictable and sustainable funding,

1. *Decides* to adopt an integrated programme of work and budget for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁵ and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization¹⁶ for the biennium 2027–2028;

2. *Also decides* to share all costs for secretariat services among the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on a ratio of 72 to 15 to 13 for the biennium 2027–2028;

3. *Approves* a core programme budget for the General Trust Fund for the Convention of XX United States dollars for 2027 and XX dollars for 2028, representing 72 per cent of the integrated budget of XX dollars for 2027 and XX dollars for 2028 for the Convention and its Protocols, for the purposes listed in tables xx and xx below;

4. *Also approves* the use of the unspent balance of the General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Convention, the General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹³ [CBD/COP/17/3](#), [CBD/COP/17/4](#), [CBD/COP/17/4/Add.2](#), [CBD/COP/17/4/Add.3](#) and [CBD/COP/17/4/Add.4](#).

¹⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

the Cartagena Protocol and the General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Nagoya Protocol (the core trust funds) for the biennium 2025–2026 of XX dollars to offset contributions from the Parties to the Convention, the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol for the biennium 2027–2028;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to Canada as the host country of the Secretariat for its renewed support for the Secretariat, and welcomes the contribution of 2,277,896 Canadian dollars for 2027 and 2,300,273 Canadian dollars for 2028 from the host country and the Province of Quebec to the rental and associated costs of the Secretariat, which will be allocated on a ratio of 72 to 15 to 13 to offset contributions from the Parties to the Convention, the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, respectively, for the biennium 2027–2028;

6. *Adopts* the scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for 2027 and 2028, in accordance with the scale of assessments of the United Nations,¹⁷ as contained in the annex to the present decision;¹⁸

7. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the functional review of the Secretariat and proposed redeployment of existing posts, and welcomes the new organizational structure of the Secretariat as presented in document [CBD/COP/17/4/Add.4](#), which should lead to increased coherence, effectiveness and efficiencies;

8. *Adopts* the staffing table of the Secretariat for the biennium 2027–2028, as contained in table xx, used for costing purposes to set the overall budget;

9. *Notes* that the Executive Secretary, within the regulations and rules of the United Nations and without prejudice to any decision by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting, is in the process of adjusting the job descriptions and assignments as part of the implementation of the functional review of the Secretariat within the proposed new organizational structure, ensuring that the overall cost of the Secretariat remains within the approved integrated budget and that there are no consequent increases in staff costs in the biennium 2027–2028;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Bureau and provide it with all necessary information, including with regard to the application of the administrative arrangements between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat, in order to ensure that the Bureau may play a guiding role with regard to preparations for and the conduct of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols;

11. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into commitments up to the level of the approved budget, drawing on available cash resources, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income, in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,¹⁹ and requests the Executive Secretary to disclose those commitments in a timely manner;

12. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to transfer resources among the programmes between each of the main appropriation lines set out in table xx below, up to an aggregate of 15 per cent of the total programme budget, provided that a further limitation of up to a maximum of 25 per cent of each such appropriation line is applied;

13. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to further reduce the environmental impact of the operations of the Secretariat and to report on the actions taken in that regard to the Conference of the Parties;

¹⁷ As contained in General Assembly resolution 79/249.

¹⁸ See [CBD/CP/MOP/12/5](#), annex, table 1. The scale of assessment will be integrated into the decision after a single scale of contributions for the Convention and its Protocols has been adopted.

¹⁹ ST/SGB/2013/4 and ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1.

14. *Reiterates* its request to the Executive Secretary, as a means to ensure transparency and accountability, to maintain the section on the website of the Convention that provides links to up-to-date information relevant to the governance of the Convention, including completed and accepted audit reports, audit recommendations and audit responses, applicable financial regulations and rules and any other relevant budgetary and financial information, to facilitate due diligence and financing decisions by Parties and other potential donors;

15. *Reminds* all Parties to the Convention and its Protocols that contributions to the core trust funds are due on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, urges Parties to pay them promptly, and requests the Executive Secretary to notify Parties of the amount of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which the contributions are due;

16. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties to the Convention and its Protocols have not paid their contributions to the core trust funds for 2026 and previous years, that some Parties have never paid their contributions and that, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards adopted by the United Nations,²⁰ arrears estimated at 2,685,322 United States dollars for the Convention, 785,985 dollars for the Cartagena Protocol and 326,309 dollars for the Nagoya Protocol were outstanding at the end of 2025 and deducted from the fund balance to cover doubtful debt, and can therefore not be used for the benefit of all respective Parties;

17. *Urges* Parties to the Convention and its Protocols that have still not paid their contributions to the core trust funds for 2026 and previous years to do so without delay or conditionalities, and requests the Executive Secretary to publish and keep up to date the information on the status of contributions to the three core trust funds, the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Approved Activities under the Convention and its Protocols, the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process and the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities) and to keep the members of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols regularly apprised of the situation so that they may provide information on unpaid contributions and their consequences to the respective regions;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in its capacity as trustee, to use all available diplomatic channels to communicate to the relevant Parties the arrears in their contributions to the core trust funds from 2026 and previous years, with a view to the payment of such arrears in full for the benefit of all Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties intersessionally, as necessary, and to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting on the status of those arrears;

19. *Confirms* that, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2006 onward, Parties that have been in arrears with their contributions for two or more years are not eligible to become a member of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to its Protocols or the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice or to nominate a member of a compliance committee, and decides that the limitation only applies in the case of Parties that are not least developed countries or small island developing States;

20. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into arrangements with any Party that has been in arrears with its contributions for two or more years, whereby the Party agrees to a schedule of payments to clear all outstanding arrears within six years, depending on its financial circumstances, and pay future contributions by the due date, and to report on the implementation of any such arrangement to the Bureau concerned at its following meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

²⁰ See General Assembly resolution 60/283, sect. IV.

21. *Decides* that a Party that has entered into an agreed arrangement in accordance with paragraph 20 above and that is fully respecting the provisions thereof will not be subject to the provisions of paragraph 19 above;

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, and invites the President of the Conference of the Parties, through a jointly signed letter, to notify Parties with outstanding contributions that they are in arrears and to invite them to take timely action to remedy the situation, and to thank those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

23. *Acknowledges* the funding estimates for:

(a) The Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Approved Activities under the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2027–2028 (see table xx);

(b) The Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process for the biennium 2027–2028 (see table xx);

(c) The Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the biennium 2027–2028 (see table xx);

24. *Recalls* rule 30 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties,²¹ and stresses the need for a wide range of Parties to attend meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, in particular to reach the level of two thirds of Parties present needed to provide a quorum for the meeting that allows decisions to be taken;

25. *Reaffirms* the importance of the full and effective participation of at least two delegates from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, as well as the subsidiary bodies, to be funded from the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process, as needed, and in this regard invites developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, including in the context of South-South cooperation, to make contributions to the Fund in a timely manner and at a level that will allow for full and effective participation;

26. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to draw, in consultation with the Bureau, a total amount of up to 500,000 dollars across the biennium 2027–2028 from the available reserves in the three core trust funds, to be used in case of temporary shortfalls in the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process, so as to support the participation of delegates from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition in the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol;

27. *Strongly encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, including in the context of South-South cooperation, to provide the financial resources to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process necessary to enable the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition in meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

²¹ Decision [I/1](#), annex, as amended in decision [V/20](#).

and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;

28. *Recalls* paragraph 31 of decision [IX/34](#) of 23 May 2008, and requests the Executive Secretary, when allocating funding from the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process, to continue to accord first priority to the funding of delegates from least developed countries and small island developing States;

29. *Expresses concern* at the persistently low level of contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process, and encourages all Parties, in particular developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, to support and facilitate the engagement of the Secretariat with existing and potential donors to the Fund, including private-sector and philanthropic entities, with a view to broadening the donor base and securing adequate resources to support the participation of eligible developing countries in meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols and the subsidiary bodies;

30. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to remind Parties in January of each year of the need to contribute to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process at least six months before the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, to issue requests in December of each year for covering the needs of all relevant meetings in the subsequent year and to issue early invitations to other donors to make contributions;

31. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux, to continue to monitor the availability of voluntary contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Parties in the Convention Process, with a view to enabling members of the Bureaux to bring any shortfalls in contributions to the attention of Parties and, as appropriate, potential donors in their regions;

32. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparation for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, to provide a list of requests addressed to the Executive Secretary in draft decisions and their implications, where applicable, in order to inform Parties, without prejudice to decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols;

33. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare and submit an updated, detailed and integrated programme of work for the biennium 2029–2030 that sets out objectives, tasks to be completed by the Secretariat and results expected with regard to each budget item, for the Convention and its Protocols, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at their eighteenth, thirteenth and seventh meetings, respectively, and a corresponding programme budget following the format of the proposed programme budget for the United Nations Environment Programme, for the biennium with the three following scenarios, taking the list referred to in paragraph 32 above into account:

(a) The programme budget (three core trust funds) set at the total 2029–2030 level in real terms, minus the amount of the unspent balances used for the biennium 2027–2028;

(b) The programme budget (three core trust funds) set at the total 2029–2030 level in nominal terms, minus the amount of the unspent balances used for the biennium 2027–2028;

(c) The programme budget (three core trust funds) required to deliver the programme of work of the Convention and its Protocols, minus the amount of the unspent balances used for the biennium 2027–2028;

34. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to introduce all possible measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat, and to reflect those measures in the three scenarios above;

35. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at their eighteenth, thirteenth and seventh meetings, respectively, on income and budget performance, unspent balances and the status of surplus and carry-overs, as well as any adjustments made to the budget for the biennium 2027–2028;

36. *Notes* the information provided by the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2025–2026,²² in particular the 2025–2026 integrated budget performance, and requests the Executive Secretary to submit at all future meetings of the Conference of the Parties information on the performance of both the core and the voluntary trust fund budgets, so that Parties have a complete report on expenditure incurred under the Convention and its Protocols.

[Placeholder for the tables mentioned in paragraphs 3, 8, 12 and 23]

²² CBD/COP/17/3.

Item 8 (a)**Resource mobilization and financial mechanism: resource mobilization**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendations [6/1](#) and [7/2](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Paragraphs 1 and 16 to 18 come from recommendation 6/1. The preamble, paragraphs 2 to 15 and the annex come from recommendation 7/2. Paragraphs 19 to 22 come from section IV of document [CBD/COP/17/5](#), which contains the text proposals made by the Secretariat pursuant to subparagraph 3 (c) of recommendation [6/1](#).

Resource mobilization

[

The Conference of the Parties,

[*Recalling* Article 20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity²³ as the basis for providing and mobilizing resources from all sources and the relevance of Articles 11 and 21 in that regard,]

[*Recalling also* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²⁴ including its section C, Goals C and D and Targets 13 to 16 and 18 to 20, and emphasizing the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming for strengthening resource mobilization and the effective and efficient use of resources to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,]

Recalling further paragraph 19 of its decision [16/34](#) of 27 February 2025, in which it decided to implement Articles 21 and 39 of the Convention and to address the global biodiversity finance gap by 2030[by establishing the permanent arrangement for the financial mechanism envisioned under Article 21 and assessing and improving the mobilization of finance from all sources],

[*Recognizing* the need to broaden the contributor base for the implementation of the Convention and to review and amend the list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties established pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention,]

1. *Acknowledges* the organization of the workshop on resource mobilization held in Rome from 10 to 13 February 2026, and expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Belgium and Germany for their financial support in that regard;

[2. *Takes note* of the review of implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization for the period 2025–2030,²⁵ as conducted through the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

[2. bis Placeholder for cross-referencing relevant provisions of decision 17/-- on planning, monitoring, reporting and review;]

[3. *Notes* that, despite reported increases in biodiversity-related financial flows, international public finance remains insufficient, unpredictable and unevenly accessible and that further efforts are required to achieve Target 19 of the Framework, in particular its subparagraph (a);]

[4. *Recognizes* the unprecedented failure to achieve Target 19 resulting from unfulfilled commitments by Parties;]

5. [*Adopts*][*Notes*] the criteria for the institutional structure to operate the financial mechanism envisaged under Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which consist of

²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁵ Decision [16/34](#), annex I.

the elements listed in paragraph 21 of decision [16/34](#)[and additional elements, as consolidated in the annex to the present decision];]

6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and other relevant existing financial entities, including international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, to take the criteria into account, as appropriate, in their ongoing efforts to reform or improve their operations;

7. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in accordance with the road map established in paragraph 22 of decision [16/34](#), at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) To conduct a review of progress in the reform of relevant existing financial entities to meet the criteria, following the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism referred to in paragraph 40 of decision [16/33](#) of 27 February 2025, while also taking into account the work undertaken further to paragraph 41 of the same decision;

(b) To prepare elements of a draft decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting, either to establish a new entity to operate the financial mechanism, whether by itself or alongside an existing entity or entities, or to confirm an existing entity or entities in that role;

(c) To include in the elements of a draft decision, if appropriate, the establishment of an intersessional process to develop the terms of reference and modalities of a new entity on the basis of the criteria;

(d) To undertake a stocktake review on the operations and performance of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, as mandated in paragraphs 39 and 29 of decisions [15/7](#) and [15/15](#) of 19 December 2022, respectively, on the basis of the reports referred to in paragraph 11 below,²⁶ relevant reports of the Global Environment Facility and other relevant information, as appropriate;

(e) To make a recommendation on responding to the stocktake review of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and integrate it into elements of a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;]

8. *Takes note* of document [CBD/SBI/7/3/Add.4](#) on impediments to the effectiveness of biodiversity finance and elements for its further enhancement, while recognizing that the list of impediments and elements for enhancement therein requires further elaboration;

9. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, consistent with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, as well as relevant organizations and initiatives, multilateral development banks, the private sector and other stakeholders, to take voluntary action immediately, where possible and as appropriate, to address impediments to the effectiveness of biodiversity finance;

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and in accordance with the road map established in paragraph 23 of decision [16/34](#):

(a) To develop measures that could be taken to enhance global biodiversity finance in order to mobilize new and additional resources from all sources, on the basis of, inter alia, the elements provided in document [CBD/SBI/7/3/Add.4](#), with the understanding that they are voluntary, and taking into account submissions made [by Parties] at the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

[[(b) To assess the performance of existing relevant financial instruments and entities with respect to the implementation of the Framework, in particular Target 19 (a), building on, inter alia, the work referred to in paragraph 7 above;]

²⁶ The Secretariat has suggested, in document [CBD/SBI/7/4](#), on the financial mechanism, that the preparatory work for the stocktake review be undertaken in conjunction with the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

[11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources and in collaboration with relevant organizations, to support the work requested of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including by preparing or commissioning reports to support the consideration by the Subsidiary Body of the items referred to in paragraphs 7 and 10 above;]

[12. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) To develop a comprehensive glossary of financial and resource mobilization concepts to be integrated into the glossary of key terms in the monitoring framework set out in the annex to document [CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1](#);

(b) To undertake a study with the following two objectives:

(i) To evaluate the accuracy and consistency of the application of the Rio markers in accounting for and reporting biodiversity-related expenditure, with particular focus on the conceptual scope of accounting for expenditure marked as significant, and its practical application,²⁷ and considering the way in which the financing target under Target 19 of the Framework was estimated;

(ii) To propose a single coefficient for expenditure marked as significant, taking into account the results of the objective described in subparagraph 12 (b) (i);

(c) To undertake a study to evaluate the conceptual and practical relevance of offsets as a financial biodiversity-related expenditure, considering whether offsets generate additionality in biodiversity conservation;]

[

[*Option A*

13. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Parties that may voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention, to indicate to the Secretariat their interest in being included in the corresponding list established in accordance with that Article;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To issue the invitations referred to in paragraph 13 at every other meeting of the Conference of the Parties, starting at its nineteenth meeting;

(b) To amend the list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties in accordance with indications of interest received and to submit the amended list for review and adoption at every other meeting of the Conference of the Parties, starting at its eighteenth meeting;

15. *Decides* to review the process described in paragraphs 13 and 14 above at its twenty-first meeting.]

[*Option B*

13. *Recognizes* that broadening the contributor base, in line with decision [16/34](#), is consistent with the evolution of national circumstances and capabilities over time;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to review and amend the list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties, using the country income groups of the World Bank as a proxy, to include high-income country

²⁷ In accordance with the scoring system for the Rio markers of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Parties,²⁸ excluding Parties recognized by the United Nations as small island developing States,²⁹ and submit the amended list for review and adoption at every meeting of the Conference of the Parties, starting at its eighteenth meeting;

15. *Decides* to review the process described in paragraph 14 above at its twenty-first meeting.]

[*Option C*

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide, after consultation with Parties, an update of the list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties adopted in decision [VIII/18](#) of 31 March 2006, for adoption at every meeting of the Conference of the Parties, starting at its eighteenth meeting;

14. *Decides* to review the process described in paragraph 13 above at its twenty-first meeting.]

[*Option D*

13. *Recalls* that any review or amendment of the list established pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention is a matter for the Conference of the Parties to decide on, in accordance with its rules of procedure;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources:

(a) To undertake an analysis of:

(i) Past practice in reviewing and amending the list of Parties established in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention;

(ii) The implications of inclusion in that list, including whether such inclusion has effects related to provisions of the Convention other than the financial provisions of Article 20;

(iii) The relationship between that list and the arrangements for contributions to the financial mechanism;

(b) To carry out consultations with Parties and relevant organizations on opportunities for broadening the contributor base for the implementation of the Convention and to prepare a report on those consultations;

15. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to consider the report and analysis referred to in paragraph 14 above, develop options for broadening the contributor base for the implementation of the Convention, including options for a process to review the list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties, established pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention and prepare elements of a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.]

]

³⁰16. *Takes note* of the studies on the relationship between debt sustainability and the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity; how the guidance on safeguards in biodiversity finance mechanisms adopted in decisions [XII/3](#) of 17 October 2014 and [14/15](#) of 29 October 2018 has been implemented, identifying good practices and lessons learned, as well as opportunities for improving implementation of the guidance; and the relationship between biodiversity and climate finance;

²⁸ As referred to in paragraph 19 of document [CBD/SBI/7/3/Add.1](#).

²⁹ See www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-sids.

³⁰ Paragraphs 16 to 22 are being kept in abeyance pending finalization of the three studies.

17. *[Invites][Encourages]* Parties and other Governments to consider the three studies in their work to mobilize financial resources from all sources, as appropriate and in line with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, in accordance with national legislation and Article 3 of the Convention and in line with section C and Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

18. *Invites* relevant international organizations and initiatives, regional development banks and other regional and international financial institutions, as well as stakeholder organizations, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates, to consider the three studies in their work on biodiversity finance;

19. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, as appropriate and in line with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, in accordance with national legislation, in line with section C of the Framework and taking into account the context-specific nature of the relationship between debt sustainability and implementation of the Convention:

(a) To assess the relevance and implications of, and explore further opportunities for, applying debt-related instruments to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, taking into account inter alia, debt sustainability, fiscal and market conditions, institutional capacity, governance and instrument design, and the way that such instruments could be addressed in national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments and planning frameworks;

(b) To enhance, where biodiversity-related fiscal and economic risks are relevant at the national level, the integration of relevant biodiversity considerations into national debt management strategies and national fiscal and debt-sustainability assessments, and to explore alternative debt management pathways that do not result in financial flows harmful to biodiversity;

(c) To explore other opportunities, where relevant, for applying debt-related fiscal instruments to support biodiversity implementation, taking into account national contexts and circumstances;

20. *Encourages* relevant international or regional organizations and initiatives, such as the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, to support the activities described in paragraph 19 above, including by identifying good practices and lessons learned and by supporting efforts to improve their visibility;

21. *Invites* Parties, as appropriate and in line with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, and in accordance with national legislation, and other governments at all levels, business organizations and other stakeholders, as well as national, regional and international development banks and other financial institutions, as applicable and in line with their respective mandates:

(a) To take the voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms³¹ into account when selecting, designing and implementing biodiversity financing mechanisms and when developing instrument-specific safeguards for them, with a view to harnessing their positive effects in an effective manner and to avoiding or mitigating negative effects, while promoting coherence and synergies with existing safeguards frameworks and standards used by international and national financial institutions, and taking into account, as appropriate, relevant non-governmental initiatives and tools;

(b) To take the voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms into account in the context of the ongoing review and harmonization of safeguards standards, as appropriate, including through alignment with relevant national legal and regulatory frameworks, with a view to facilitating their effective implementation at the national and local levels;

(c) To provide and strengthen capacity-building and development for the effective application of safeguards standards, as appropriate;

³¹ Decision [XII/3](#), annex III.

(d) To share relevant case studies, good practices, lessons learned and associated guidance materials through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;

22. *Invites* Parties, as appropriate and in line with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, in accordance with national legislation, and other governments at all levels, the governing bodies of relevant environmental agreements, business organizations and other stakeholders, as well as national, regional and international development banks and other financial institutions, as applicable and in line with respective mandates, to continue to optimize the co-benefits and synergies of biodiversity and climate finance[, while avoiding duplication of work between convention secretariats and respecting their various mandates,] by:

(a) Capitalizing on emerging opportunities to create or scale up biodiversity synergies with climate finance-related actions;

(b) Integrating, or improving the integration of, biodiversity considerations into international and domestic climate finance mechanisms and policies, by:

(i) Strengthening intersectoral coordination at the national level;

(ii) Implementing and advancing social and environmental safeguards policies that reduce and prevent the potentially harmful impacts of climate-related programmes, projects and activities on biodiversity;

(iii) Setting goals, designing policies, programmes and projects and taking actions with biodiversity co-benefits in the delivery of climate finance, such as programmes, projects and activities that support climate change mitigation and adaptation, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, as well as other appropriate approaches consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

(iv) Developing and applying, during the project planning and preparation stage, as appropriate, compatible indicators, metrics and reporting approaches to assess biodiversity outcomes and co-benefits within climate-finance policies, programmes and projects;

(c) Significantly enhancing the understanding and transparency of accounting and reporting in relation to financial contributions as part of the efforts to optimize co-benefits and synergies, including, as appropriate, by improving the compatibility of biodiversity- and climate-finance tracking systems and avoiding double-counting, in line with the purview of the respective multilateral environmental agreements.

[Annex

Criteria for the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism envisaged under Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The operation of the financial mechanism envisaged under Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity³² can be entrusted to one or more entities, be they new, reformed or existing, which would form an institutional structure fulfilling at least the following criteria:[³³]

(a) It functions for the purpose of implementing the Convention and its Protocols;

(b) It is under the authority and guidance of, and accountable to, the Conference of the Parties;

³² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[³³ The criteria listed [are non-exhaustive and non-prescriptive and] do not pre-judge the entity or entities to which the operation of the financial mechanism may be entrusted, the modalities of their operation or the outcome of the reviews referred to in paragraph 6 above.]

(c) It operates within a democratic and transparent system of governance, ensuring a structure that is fair, equitable, inclusive, efficient and representative;

(d) It is accessible by all eligible Parties to the Convention in a fair, timely, simplified, equitable, inclusive and non-discriminatory manner;

[(e) Its policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria related to the access to, and utilization of, financial resources are determined by the Conference of the Parties;]

[(f) It provides access to new, additional, predictable and adequate financing that responds to the needs and priorities of all eligible Parties, consisting of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition;]

[(g) It ensures the full and effective participation of [all stakeholders, including] indigenous peoples and local communities[, and relevant stakeholders];]

[(h) It is accessible by all developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition;]

[(i) It adds value to and complements the current biodiversity finance landscape;]

[(j) It has a contributor base aimed at the mobilization of resources from all sources;]

[(k) It is able to capitalize on synergies between support for biodiversity action and support for actions to address other related environmental challenges;]

[(l) It [ensures country ownership by all eligible Parties, including by means of direct access modalities through national implementing entities and the effective participation of relevant recipient country authorities in all phases of the programme and project cycle][relies on national executing agencies, ensuring the participation and involvement of relevant recipient country authorities in all steps of the funding allocation process, including project development and execution;]]

[(m) It recognizes the role of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth,[including by] [ensuring their full and effective participation in decision-making and] [providing direct access to finance[, on the basis of a letter of support from the national focal point for the Convention]]];]

[(n) It [includes robust accountability, transparency, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of disbursement and utilization of resources, as well as grievance and redress arrangements][provides for a grievance and redress mechanism];]

[(o) It provides direct allocation or project-based disbursement, or both, to all eligible Parties;]

[(p) It ensures accountability of the trustee and compliance with decisions of the [Conference of the Parties][governing body];]

[(q) It provides financial resources on a grant and concessional basis to all eligible Parties and takes full account of the specific needs and special circumstances of least developed countries and small island developing States among them.]]]

]

Item 8 (b)

Resource mobilization and financial mechanism: financial mechanism

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendations [6/2](#) and [7/3](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The preamble, paragraphs 14, 19, 23, 25, 29 to 39 and annex II come from the draft decision contained in recommendation [6/2](#). Annex III also comes from recommendation [6/2](#), except for paragraphs 3 (h) and (g) and 10 bis, which come from annex II to recommendation [7/3](#). Paragraphs 1 to 13; 15 to 18; 20 to 22; 24 and 26 and 27 come from the draft decision contained in recommendation [7/3](#), while paragraph 28 was prepared by the Secretariat.

Financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [15/15](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/33](#) of 27 February 2025 pertaining to the assessment of funding needed by all eligible developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity³⁴ and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2026–June 2030),

Recalling also the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund contained in annex I to decision [16/33](#),

Recognizing that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³⁵ is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements and the mandate of the Global Environment Facility,

[1. *[Welcomes][Acknowledges][Notes with appreciation]* the pledges made as at 30 May 2026 for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund by participant countries, namely, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland and Uzbekistan, which amounted to approximately 3.9 billion United States dollars, using the agreed reference exchange rates for the replenishment period;^{36]}

[2. *Notes with concern* that the amount of 3.9 billion dollars is contributed by only 50 per cent of developed country Parties, and appreciates the contributions of developing country Parties, namely, Brazil, China, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Mexico, South Africa and Uzbekistan;^{37]}

[3. *[Notes with deep concern]* that [the negotiations for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund concluded with a reduction of 27 per cent compared with the eighth replenishment period and that such a reduction comes at a time when Parties are expected to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework][the overall level of resources remains insufficient in the light of the scale of needs to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular Target 19 (a);]^{38]}

³⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

³⁶ To be updated in October 2026.

³⁷ To be updated in October 2026.

³⁸ Operative paragraphs 1 to 3 were considered at the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (see recommendation [7/3](#)). Recommendation [6/2](#), adopted at its sixth meeting, also contained a paragraph on the topic of the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (para. 6), but that paragraph was not discussed at that meeting. It is the understanding of the Secretariat that paragraphs 1 to 3 above reflect the discussions of the Subsidiary Body on

4. *[Urges][Requests]* developed country Parties, and invites other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties and other countries, to make contributions for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in support of the full implementation of the Framework and in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of the Convention;

5. *Welcomes* the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;³⁹

6. *Also welcomes* the improved disaggregation of co-financing by source in the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility and encourages the Facility to continue to enhance the transparency and granularity of future reporting on the various sources of co-financing;

7. *Notes with appreciation* that the programming directions for the ninth replenishment period have been designed to deliver on all elements of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting,⁴⁰ reflecting the effective response to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Welcomes* the allocation of 35 per cent of the ninth replenishment resources to the biodiversity focal area, which is the largest focal area, and the aim of committing at least 70 per cent of funding to biodiversity over that period, according to the Rio marker methodology of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

9. *Also welcomes* the inclusion in the programming directions and policy recommendations of the Global Environment Facility for the ninth replenishment period of the indigenous people and local community conservation initiative,⁴¹ an aspirational target of programming 20 per cent of resources to support indigenous peoples and local communities and strengthened support to least developed countries and small island developing States, with an aspirational benchmark of 35 per cent for those countries, as well as the introduction of the aspirational target of programming 25 per cent to mobilize private capital;

10. *Further welcomes* the establishment of the Ad Hoc Governance Working Group of the Council of the Global Environment Facility under the ninth replenishment of the Facility, in response to decision [16/33](#);

[11. *Requests* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take into account the criteria [set out in paragraph 21 of decision [16/34](#) of 27 February 2025] [and decision 17/--], ensuring a democratic and transparent system of governance that is fair, equitable, inclusive, efficient and representative[, while facilitating the full and effective participation of indigenous people and local communities, women and youth];]

12. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to accelerate efforts to further strengthen its effectiveness, including by:

(a) Improving integration pathways, approaches and integrated programmes that deliver system-wide environmental benefits to improve synergies among environmental conventions, while ensuring that such programmes take into account their respective mandates, remain country-driven,

the subject and therefore supersede the not-negotiated paragraph 6 in recommendation [6/2](#). As a result, that paragraph has not been included in the present draft decision. For reference, it read as follows: “[*Reiterates* its appreciation to developed country Parties, other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties and other donors that contributed actively to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in support of eligible developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, [the most environmentally vulnerable country Parties,] and Parties with economies in transition;]”.

³⁹ [CBD/COP/17/5/Add.1](#).

⁴⁰ Decision [16/33](#), annex I.

⁴¹ Building on previous iterations of the Inclusive Conservation Initiative at an expanded level of 100 million dollars,

responsive to national circumstances and priorities, and implemented through meaningful engagement with national executing agencies from recipient countries;

(b) Enabling and facilitating private sector financing aligned with the objectives of the Convention through its blended finance programme funding window and the provision of predictable support to eligible Parties, with a view to developing projects and programmes that enable greater private sector investment and financial flows, including through long-term enabling policy frameworks, incentives, regulations, blended finance tools and the development of financially viable, investment-ready biodiversity finance projects and pipelines, while recognizing that such investments complement public finance;

(c) Promoting whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances, to strengthen programme and project ownership at the national level and the alignment of biodiversity actions with nationally identified priorities, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national development priorities, and policy coherence;

(d) Continuing to improve its system of resource allocation^[42] [[, including by continuing to maximize the generation of global environmental benefits and recognizing the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in achieving them, and to improve the allocation performance of its implementing entities] [by enhancing transparency, equity, predictability and responsiveness to the [relevant][specific] needs and priorities of developing country Parties, including small island developing States and least developed countries]];

(e) Sustaining enhanced support for all eligible Parties, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States [and the most environmentally vulnerable countries], by reducing transaction costs, simplifying access procedures across existing Global Environment Facility focal areas and financing windows[, including through direct access modalities via national implementing agencies,] and improving the timeliness and predictability of financial support, measured by the date of first disbursement to the recipient country;

(f) Deepening accessible support for indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with element 8 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030⁴³ (access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity), including by developing guidance on the 20 per cent portfolio-wide target for indigenous peoples and local communities, which includes the [dedicated][[direct] access][⁴⁴] modalities;

[(g) Strengthening the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth[, including in decision-making,] in accordance with the national legislation of concerned Parties;]

(h) Continuing to promote country-driven national initiatives and regionally coordinated regional and multi-country initiatives[, including transboundary initiatives, with effective participation [and formal approval] [of national focal points for the Convention and relevant national authorities] [and formal approval of operational focal points for the Global Environment Facility]];

^[42] Ensuring that any performance-based element of the allocation formula, including any measure of past disbursement, does not disadvantage Parties the disbursement rates of which reflect the capacity constraints that the financial mechanism exists to relieve, consistent with paragraph 4 of Article 20 of the Convention.]

⁴³ Decision [16/4](#), annex.

^[44] Direct access for organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities include application of procedures for screening the capacities, experience and performance of organizations in managing funds and implementing projects, according to established Global Environment Facility procedures and following approval by the operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility, which is granted in coordination with the national focal point for the Convention.]

(i) Ensuring that Global Environment Facility support for the implementation of the Convention[, including support [through direct access ^[45]] for the implementation, monitoring, update and review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans,] is country-led and aligned with [national biodiversity strategies and action plans and] the targets of the Framework;

(j) Continuing to support the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments and their integration, where applicable, into national policies and priorities;

(k) Continuing to advance collaboration, coherence and complementarity across multilateral climate funds and other sources of finance relevant to the implementation of the Framework;

(l) Strengthening national institutional and technical capacities for project preparation, implementation, monitoring and reporting;

[(m) Simplifying project development guidance;]

(n) Reporting on the attainment of the targets mentioned in paragraph 9 above and on disaggregated data on programming, approvals and disbursement by recipient country or region;

[(o) Improving the transparency and granularity of reporting on biodiversity-related finance, including by distinguishing between financing for which biodiversity is a principal objective and financing for which it is a significant objective under the Rio marker methodology, taking into account the qualitative nature of the Rio markers and by clarifying the extent to which such financing contribute to the implementation of the Framework;]

[13. *Also requests* the Global Environment Facility to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting on the resources of the biodiversity focal area for the ninth replenishment period of its Trust Fund expressed in United States dollars at the final replenishment level, together with the corresponding figure for the eighth replenishment period, and on the share of resources originally programmed and subsequently disbursed to small island developing States, presented separately from least developed countries;]

14. *Recognizes* the value of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund in complementing the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund by providing financial support to eligible developing country Parties for achieving the goals and targets of the Framework;

[15. *Expresses its appreciation* [to the Global Environment Facility] for the operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund in record time with a streamlined project cycle[, the demonstration of speed of delivery] and the achievement to date of the three portfolio targets pertaining to least developed countries and small islands developing States, indigenous peoples and local communities[, women and youth,] and resources programmed through international financial institutions;]

[16. *Takes note [with deep concern]* of the information on the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund contained in the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties[, in particular the limited scale of capitalization to date in relation to the financing needs for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework][and that many eligible Parties have not yet received support from the Fund];]

17. *Reiterates* the call made by the Council of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund at its sixth meeting for new and additional contributions from all sources to support the continuous,

⁴⁵ [Direct access for organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities include application of procedures for screening the capacities, experience and performance of organizations in managing funds and implementing projects, according to established Global Environment Facility procedures and following approval by the operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility, which is granted in coordination with the national focal point for the Convention.]

rapid and robust capitalization of the Fund[, without prejudice to the obligations of developed country Parties under Article 20 of the Convention and with a view to attracting contributions from sovereign, non-sovereign, private sector, philanthropic and financial actors];

[18. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to enhance efforts to mobilize predictable, adequate and additional resources from all sources and report on the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund for the period from July 2026 to June 2030, including through disaggregated information on pledges, commitments, [approvals, disbursements,] sources of finance, [financial instruments, concessionality,] co-financing, private sector contributions and non-sovereign contributions and the extent to which resources are new and additional;]

[19. *Invites* developed country Parties and Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties, other governments at all levels, the private sector and philanthropic organizations to make or increase their contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;]

[20. *Requests* the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and its implementing agencies to[, where appropriate,] [continue to]:

[(a) Facilitate, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, the broadening of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund contributor base and the mobilization of additional financial resources;]

[(b) Improve co-financing arrangements, without making co-financing a condition for access to Global Biodiversity Framework Fund resources and in a manner that does not create additional barriers to access for developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries [,][and] small island developing States [and the most environmentally vulnerable countries], or shift the financial burden to recipient countries;]

[(c) Simplify and expedite project approval and disbursement procedures, including the endorsement process and disbursement processes for approved projects under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund[, without prejudice to country ownership];]

[(d) Simplify implementation procedures[, where appropriate];]

[(e) Reduce project cycle processing times;]

[(f) Report on processing and disbursement times disaggregated for least developed countries and small island developing States;]

[(g) Provide necessary resources, fully disbursed allocated funds and complete organizational work, including at the national level, in support of the preparation of the eighth national reports by the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

[(h) Enhance equitable access, including by considering measures to facilitate access for eligible country Parties that have not yet received support from the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;]]

21. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Convention[, to consider supporting,][to provide support to] [all] eligible Parties in line with its mandate, for:

(a) [National platforms or]existing national coordination mechanisms designed to aid project preparation, as necessary[, and track ongoing biodiversity funding needs, gaps and priorities;]

[(b) Capacity-building and readiness support for national implementing agencies, including for accreditation;]

(c) The preparation and submission of national reports on the implementation of the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁴⁶ and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, taking into account national circumstances;⁴⁷

(d) Capacity-building for leveraging private sector financing, including from capital markets, through, inter alia, innovative mechanisms and blended finance, and for developing financially viable projects, with robust safeguards[to avoid increasing debt vulnerabilities];

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake preparatory work for the stocktake review of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund referred to in paragraph 29 of decision [15/15](#), [in accordance with annex III to the present decision], in conjunction with its seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, [recognizing that the stocktake shall inform, but not prejudice, consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the future institutional structure of the financial mechanism provided under Article 21 of the Convention];

[23. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to facilitate financial support for eligible Parties that have not yet received support for the development of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets or the preparation of national reports;]

[24. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, in consultation with recipient countries and the Executive Secretary, to review the effectiveness of projects funded during its seventh and eighth cycles for the development of national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports [under the Convention and its Protocols] and to report on the measures that it has taken to address identified challenges [for][to adjust accordingly] the preparation of the eight national report [to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before][at] the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

25. [*Requests* that specific resources be reserved for][*Encourages* developing country Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to submit to the Global Environment Facility] biosafety projects under the Protocol, given the small number of such projects funded in previous rounds;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention and its Protocols related to the use of Facility resources for biodiversity for the period from July 2030 to June 2034, taking into consideration the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, [and addressing expressly the access modalities and capacity constraints of developing countries Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, consistent with paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention,] for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequent adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

[27. *Emphasizes* that the preparation of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities of the Convention and its Protocols for the tenth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund is without prejudice to the process established in decision [16/34](#) regarding the institutional structure for the financial mechanism provided under Article 21 of the Convention.]

28. *Adopts* the additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex I to the present decision, and requests the Council of the Global Environment Facility to include information regarding the implementation of the additional guidance in its reports to the Conference of the Parties;

⁴⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

29. *Notes* the information on funding needs received from 45 eligible Parties and the compilation and analysis of that information transmitted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Global Environment Facility to help with the negotiations for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

30. *Takes note* of the report on the assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;⁴⁸

31. *Notes* the limited number of submissions from eligible Parties and therefore limited information available for assessing the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

[32. *Also notes* the importance of a realistic assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility;]

[33. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen technical and institutional support for eligible Parties, so that their needs are fully reflected in future assessments;]

[34. *Adopts* the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the tenth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2030–June 2034), as contained in annex II to the present decision, noting that the assessment should be conducted in a manner that avoids disproportionate administrative burdens and provides for financial and technical support for data collection in developing country Parties;]

[35. *Encourages* Parties to establish national platforms for planning and monitoring biodiversity projects that are accessible to stakeholders and regularly updated;]

[36. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as contained in annex III to the present decision;]

37. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, to contribute to and participate in the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as outlined in the terms of reference;

38. *Emphasizes* the importance of integrating [in the quadrennial review] specific indicators for eligible Parties, in particular on the number of projects funded, disbursement times and impact on local communities;

39. *Requests* the Executive Secretary[, subject to availability of resources]:

[(a) To commission and make available a report on the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;]

(b) To prepare a report on the full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the tenth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, for consideration by

⁴⁸ [CBD/SBI/6/INF/13](#).

the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

[(c) To further strengthen collaboration and engagement with financial institutions and stakeholders, especially those recognized by the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in order to accelerate the implementation of the Framework, with an emphasis on improving access modalities[, including direct access and [simplified][simplifying] procedures for developing country Parties], while ensuring transparency, accountability, gender equality and the respect for human rights;]

[(d) To report on the results of the collaboration and engagement mentioned in the subparagraph above, and include options for such engagements, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

[(e) To facilitate the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in the implementation of the activities referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (d) above.]

Annex I

Additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility

[Placeholder for elements of guidance]

Annex II

Terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the tenth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2030–June 2034)

A. Objective and scope

1. The objective of the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference is to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity⁴⁹ to make an assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols, in particular the commitment to implementing any successor to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵⁰ over the tenth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2030–June 2034), and determine the amount of resources needed, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 21 of the Convention and decision [III/8](#) of 15 November 1996 of the Conference of the Parties.

B. Methodology

2. The funding needs assessment should be conducted taking into account:

- (a) Article 20 and paragraph 1 of Article 21 of the Convention, as well as the Framework;
- (b) Guidance provided to the financial mechanism by the Conference of the Parties, which may call for future financial resources, and in the resource mobilization decision, in which the Conference of the Parties calls for a broadening of the contributor base;

⁴⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁵⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

- (c) All obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, in particular the Framework;
- (d) National strategies, plans or programmes developed in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention and national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments, where available;
- (e) Information communicated to the Conference of the Parties in national reports and by the Parties through the financial reporting framework and other submission responses to surveys and interviews;
- (f) Policies and guidelines agreed by the Council of the Global Environment Facility for determining eligibility for funding of projects;
- (g) Synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements funded by the Global Environment Facility, including those with respect to operations and impacts;
- (h) Additional private capital mobilized through blended finance, including through the use of non-grant instruments, while recognizing the challenges that may be experienced by some Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in mobilizing private capital in this regard;
- (i) Policy coherence;
- (j) Other relevant estimations, including the costs of implementing the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030);⁵¹
- [(k) Exchange rates, inflation volatility and the rising cost of conserving biodiversity in developing economies.]

3. In the context of the assessment, interviews, surveys, quantitative and qualitative analyses, and consultations should be undertaken, as needed for the preparation of the report, including:

- (a) A compilation and analysis of the needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans, including country-specific resource mobilization strategies, prepared by Global Environment Facility-eligible and other relevant Parties pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention, taking into account incremental cost funding as the fundamental operational principle of the Global Environment Facility;
- (b) A review of reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Articles 6 and 26 of the Convention, as well as Article 33 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁵² and Article 29 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,⁵³ to identify funding needs related to the fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols;
- (c) The estimated financial implications of guidance provided to the financial mechanism by the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) A compilation and analysis of any supplementary information provided by Global Environment Facility-eligible Parties on their funding needs for the implementation of their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols.

C. Implementation

4. The national focal points of the Convention and the focal points of the financial mechanism [should][may], as appropriate, bear joint responsibility for coordinating national-level incremental

⁵¹ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

⁵² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619

funding needs assessments, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and other focal points under the Convention and related conventions to ensure a whole-of-government approach.

5. The national focal points may establish a national platform or use existing national coordination mechanisms, or both, to aid project planning, as necessary, and track ongoing biodiversity funding needs, gaps and priorities. Close links should be established between the national platform or relevant coordination mechanism and national support initiatives of relevant funding providers, in particular the country engagement strategy of the Global Environment Facility.

[6. The national platform should also facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders, through a whole-of-society [and human rights-based] approach, as appropriate.]

7. The Executive Secretary should provide the information received from Parties without additional reporting obligations on funding needs through an online platform, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the visualization of biodiversity funding needs, gaps and priorities on an ongoing basis.

8. The Executive Secretary should prepare a report on the full assessment, and the report should be submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to providing recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at that meeting.

9. At its eighteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of the estimated amount of funds that are necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the tenth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

Annex III

Terms of reference for the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

A. Objectives

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵⁴ and building upon the experience of the past six reviews of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention will undertake its seventh review at its eighteenth meeting and take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, as necessary. For that purpose, the following elements will be included in the review:

(a) The conformity of the activities of the Global Environment Facility, as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The effectiveness of the financial mechanism in providing financial resources to enable [all] eligible developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition to meet the agreed full incremental costs to them of implementing measures through which they fulfil their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and that generate global environmental benefits, and benefit from their provisions, taking into account the need for predictability, adequacy, accessibility and timely flow of funds, including the performance of the Global Environment Facility implementing agencies;

(c) The efficiency of the financial mechanism in providing financial resources and, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the results of activities financed by its resources, including their social and gender- and equity-related outcomes and impacts, as relevant;

⁵⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

(d) The effectiveness of catalysing and enhancing national implementation measures in line with national priorities for achieving global biodiversity goals and targets, including those related to the Convention and its Protocols;

(e) The efficiency and effectiveness of the activities funded by the Global Environment Facility and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of its three objectives, as well as, as applicable, the implementation of its Protocols, taking into account the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

(f) The efficiency and effectiveness of processes and procedures for the deployment and use of resources, including simplified procedures and access modalities;

(g) The effectiveness and efficiency of the support provided for the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols in synergy with the implementation of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in a manner that is consistent with the mandates of the respective agreements;

(h) The effectiveness in improving access to financial resources and trends associated with funding for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth to support the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;

(i) The efficiency of each of the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility in providing technical support and services to countries in their preparation of project proposals and the implementation of projects, including with regard to the timely disbursement of fund, fees and project management costs, use of international consultants and control of expenditure.

B. Methodology

2. The review will cover all the activities of the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, in particular for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026.

3. The review shall draw upon, inter alia, and in a balanced manner, the following sources of information:

(a) The reviews of effectiveness of the financial mechanism in implementing the Convention undertaken pursuant to the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, as contained in the annex to decision [III/8](#) of 15 November 1996;

(b) Reports prepared by the Global Environment Facility, including its reports for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

(c) Reports of the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility that relate to the biodiversity-related activities of the Facility, including the eighth comprehensive evaluation of the Global Environment Facility, as well as relevant assessments by the agencies accredited by the Council of the Facility and other partners;

[(d) The Multilateral Performance Network assessments of the Global Environment Facility and reports related to the review of the vertical climate and environmental funds under the Group of 20;⁵⁵]

(e) Information regarding the financial mechanism provided by Parties through national reports and other submissions, surveys and interviews;

(f) Information provided by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders related to projects funded through the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, including their views on possible impacts on their

⁵⁵ See www.mopan.org/en/our-work/performance-evidence/gef.html.

rights, as applicable, as well as documented evidence and assessments of such impacts, including gender-differentiated impacts;

- (g) Experience with, and lessons learned from, relevant international financial mechanisms;
- (h) The report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- (i) The stocktake review of the operations and performance of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund regarding its scale, speed and accessibility and the future arrangements requested in decision [15/15](#) of 19 December 2022.

C. Criteria

[4. The effectiveness and efficiency of the financial mechanism should be assessed taking into account, inter alia:]

(a) The actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties and to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁵⁶ including through the decisions of the Global Environment Facility Council on relations with conventions and international institutions;

(b) The extent to which eligible Parties[, including developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition] take measures to apply for and receive timely, adequate and predictable funding to enable them to meet the agreed full incremental cost to them of implementing measures through which they fulfil their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and that generate global environmental benefits;

[(c) Information provided by Parties in relation to their performance in delivering projects under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, including on the effectiveness and efficiency of access modalities, constraints affecting women's access to financing, the competence and capacity of recipient Parties to maintain those modalities and the performance of implementing agencies;]

[(d) Percentage of eligible Parties that have received financial support from the financial mechanism for implementing global biodiversity goals and targets, including those related to the Convention and its Protocols;]

(e) Percentage of biodiversity-relevant funding through the financial mechanism in support of the achievement of global biodiversity goals and targets;

(f) Trends in co-financing, in particular private and non-grant financing in the biodiversity focal area enabled by the financial mechanism;

(g) Trends in financing global, regional and subregional biodiversity projects under the financial mechanism;

(h) Trends in financing that take into consideration synergies among conventions for which the Global Environment Facility has been designated to operate their financial mechanism on an ongoing and interim basis;

(i) Trends in financing targeted at biodiversity-related conventions and agreements taking into consideration synergies among them;

[(j) Trends in time frames for project development and resource disbursement, including the time between the approval of the concept note (or the project identification form) and the [first disbursement][moment the recipient country received the resources];]

⁵⁶ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

[(k) Trends in financing targeted at or led by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and that respect, protect and fulfil human rights, including [direct] access to finance;]

[(l) Trends in the number and themes of capacity-building activities that enable Parties and stakeholders to secure access to financing from the Global Environment Facility;]

[(m) Trends in project financing leading to high sustainability or durability ratings and long-term results achieved through biodiversity programming supported by the Global Environment Facility in relation to expected results planned by the Facility through that programming;]

[(n) Criteria listed in decision [16/34](#) of 27 February 2025.]

[5. The assessment should include a comparison of the Global Environment Facility with the financial mechanisms of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Green Climate Fund[,][and] the Adaptation Fund [and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage]. Elements for consideration should include: contributor base; funding modalities and financial performance; criteria and processes for funding, including project cycle considerations; access and disbursement modalities (e.g. direct allocation or project-based disbursement), including for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth; relationship between the governing body of the fund and the Conference of the Parties to the respective multilateral environmental agreement; transparency, monitoring, reporting and evaluation; accreditation process and role and performance of implementing agencies; cost-effectiveness of operations; ability to leverage funding to mobilize additional finance for biodiversity; cost of setting up and running the financial instrument; leveraging public and private co-finance; and integration of various environmental fields.]

D. Procedures for implementation

[6. In consultation with the Bureau, the Executive Secretary will contract an experienced independent evaluator to undertake the review, in accordance with the aforementioned objectives, methodology and criteria.]

[7. The evaluator will undertake desk studies, questionnaire surveys, interviews and field visits, such as may be required for the implementation of the review, and collaborate for that purpose with the Global Environment Facility and its Independent Evaluation Office, as well as other independent assessments, such as those of the Multilateral Performance Network, if necessary, and prepare a compilation and synthesis of the information received.]

[8. Special efforts should be made to collect the views of Parties, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, including[, as applicable,] information on possible impacts on their rights [in relation to project-specific environmental objectives and in accordance with relevant national legislation].]

[9. The draft synthesis report and recommendations of the evaluator will be made available to the Global Environment Facility for its review and comments. Such comments will be included in the documentation and identified by source.]

[10. The report should include as an annex the study requested in paragraph 41 of decision [16/33](#) of 27 February 2025 benchmarking the Global Environment Facility against the financial mechanisms or similar instruments of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including with regard to their legal nature, funding modalities and financial performance, criteria and process for funding, access and disbursement modalities, monitoring and evaluation, governance and the cost-effectiveness of operations[, as well as other criteria contained in decision [16/34](#)].]

10 bis. The report shall include as an annex the stocktake review referred to in decision [15/15](#).

[11. On the basis of the synthesis report and recommendations of the independent evaluator, the Executive Secretary will prepare, in consultation with the Global Environment Facility, a draft

decision on the seventh quadrennial review of the financial mechanism, including specific suggestions for action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism[, if necessary,] for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with its recommendations to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.]

Item 9 (a)**Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from draft decision A in recommendation [7/1](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that, in its decisions [15/4](#) and [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, and [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct a global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵⁷ at its seventeenth meeting and that the national reports and the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework would be the primary sources of information for the global review,

Recalling also that, in its decision [16/32](#), the Conference of the Parties also decided that the global review would draw upon relevant recommendations of the subsidiary bodies and working groups and, as relevant, the outcomes of the informal technical dialogue, [which has since been named the Kunming dialogue on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in support of the global review,] the outcomes of the subregional and regional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, and the global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans,

Recognizing that 129 Parties had submitted national reports in time for consideration in the preparation of the global report, that is, by 8 March 2026, which had provided substantial evidence for preparing the global report,

Recognizing also that additional sources of information identified in decision [16/32](#), such as scientific literature and the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, were used in the preparation of the global report, that those sources further strengthened the evidence base for the global report and that science played an important role in the global review,

Noting with concern that there remain data and information gaps in the national reports, that not all Parties were able to submit national reports in time for them to be considered in the preparation of the global report and that, consequently, the experiences of some Parties, in particular small island developing States, are not well reflected in the global report,

Noting with appreciation the support provided to Parties for developing national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports,

Highlighting that, for many developing country Parties, in particular small island developing States, there continues to be delays in the initiation of the Global Environment Facility support for developing national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports, which had an impact on the timeliness and completeness of some national reports,⁵⁸ and recognizing that a range of factors may have contributed to delays,

⁵⁷ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁵⁸ The timing of disbursement and expenditure for the enabling activities projects funded by the Global Environment Facility is available in document [CBD/SBI/7/INF/17](#) and summarized in the global report.

Recognizing that the information and data gaps identified in the global report do not necessarily represent gaps in the implementation of the Framework or a lack of commitment to the Framework,

Stressing that many Parties face institutional, technical, capacity and resource challenges in preparing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, in particular in relation to the use of the headline indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁵⁹ which contribute to the information gaps in the global report,

Acknowledging that, while there were methodological, scientific, technical and data limitations and time constraints related to the preparation of the first global report, the global report is the most definitive source of information on collective progress currently available, that it was developed through a Party-led process and that it provides a [sound] basis for the global review,

Acknowledging also that the planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, including future global reviews, could be further strengthened by taking into account the experiences and lessons learned in preparing the first global report and the seventh national reports,

Expressing appreciation for the work of the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the Preparation of the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in guiding the production of the first global report,

Acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Germany and Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and, through the China Trust Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme for the global review, as well as the financial support provided by the European Union and the Governments of Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Switzerland and, through the China Trust Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the related global report,

1. *Welcomes* [with appreciation] the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and notes its overarching messages and key messages;

2. [Also welcomes][Recognizes] with appreciation that the Framework has generated unprecedented global engagement and has driven action, innovation, collaboration and learning;

3. *Further welcomes* the fact that Parties have taken actions across all 23 targets of the Framework showing successful examples of implementation for every target;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that actors other than national Governments, namely, indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities, and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, other multilateral environment agreements, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, research organizations, the business and finance community and representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity have taken action to implement the Framework;⁶⁰

5. *Highlights* the fact that, as indicated in the global report, the review has revealed both progress and gaps in implementation, in particular:

(a) Scope and coverage

(i) Parties have collectively set national targets that had a higher level of scope and coverage of Targets 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Framework, an intermediate level

⁵⁹ Decision 15/5, annex I.

⁶⁰ All references to “actors other than national Governments” are to be understood as described in paragraph 4 (in line with decisions 15/6 and 16/32).

of scope and coverage of Targets 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 17 and 21 and a lower level of scope and coverage of Targets 1, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23;

- (ii) The consideration of marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems, issues related to the drivers of biodiversity loss and issues related to [section C of the Framework, in particular] [whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, including participation, the engagement of actors other than national Governments, gender responsiveness, equitable governance and mainstreaming], has been less addressed in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reports;
- (b) Action and implementation
- (i) National targets associated with Targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 13, 20, 21 and 22 of the Framework were most frequently self-assessed by Parties as being on track, while national targets associated with Targets 6, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were least frequently self-assessed by Parties as being on track; however, less than half of the national targets associated with any global target had been reported by Parties as being on track;
 - (ii) While there were data and national monitoring capacity gaps that limited the ability to report national data and, thus, to aggregate them at the global level and conclusively track collective progress towards the global targets, indicators related to the targets of the Framework showed negative trends more commonly than positive ones;
- (c) Means of implementation
- (i) Means of implementation remain below what is required for the full and effective implementation of the Framework, especially for developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States;
 - (ii) Since the adoption of the Framework, there has been some, albeit uneven, progress across Parties in domestic and international public finance, positive incentives for biodiversity, capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and technical and scientific cooperation;
 - (iii) Collectively, limited progress has been made in mobilizing and tracking private sector finance and positive incentives and in reducing incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity;
 - (iv) The lack of availability of sufficient and timely means of implementation was identified as the most common barrier to implementation, especially by developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States;
- (d) Whole-of-government approaches
- (i) Parties have made progress in strengthening environmental governance, including by engaging all levels of government and all sectors; however, gaps remain with regard to policy coherence, mainstreaming biodiversity and its multiple values into national policy and engaging ministries beyond the environmental sector in implementation;
 - (ii) Gaps remain with regard to progress towards Targets 1 and 14 of the Framework, which relate to integrated planning and mainstreaming and are most directly related to whole-of-government approaches, especially in relation to integrated spatial planning, integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies,

regulations, planning and development processes and ensuring integration across all levels of government and sectors;

(e) Whole-of-society approaches

- (i) Actors other than national Governments are actively supporting the implementation of the Framework, but indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and persons with disabilities face challenges related to limited resources, technical capacities, access to information and knowledge, effective participation and coordination mechanisms;
- (ii) Collectively, Parties have made progress in engaging actors other than national Governments in planning and implementation; however, many Parties reported challenges in accounting for the contributions of those actors in national implementation efforts;
- (iii) While many Parties reported progress towards some elements of Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework, such as involving to a varying degree indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, persons with disabilities and other actors defined in those targets in biodiversity-related decision-making, issues related to the following were less well reflected in national targets: access to information and justice, rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, and the protection of environmental human rights defenders or gender-responsive biodiversity governance;

(f) Data and knowledge

- (i) Parties have demonstrated improvements to national monitoring and knowledge management systems, including accounting for traditional knowledge and collecting and using information from government agencies, scientific institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and international sources, as reflected in the progress made towards Target 21 of the Framework;
- (ii) A total of 116 Parties reported on at least one headline indicator; the headline indicators on protected area extent (3.1), Red List Index (A.3), international public funding (D.1) and domestic public funding (D.2), which are associated with Targets 3, 4 and 19 of the Framework, were the headline indicators most reported on, while the indicators related to land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities (22.1), benefits from the sustainable use of wild species (9.1), index of coastal eutrophication (7.1) and monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments (C.1), which are associated with Targets 7, 9 and 13, were the indicators least reported on;
- (iii) For 19 of the 23 targets of the Framework, less than half of the reporting Parties submitted any data for a headline, component, complementary or national indicator; the targets with the most reported quantitative data were 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10, while Targets 8, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22 and 23 received the least;
- (iv) The use of disaggregated indicator information, including by ecosystem type, sex, age, indigenous people and local community status or other relevant characteristics, was limited;
- (v) Reporting against the indicators and monitoring efforts have been negatively affected by gaps, challenges and barriers related to methodologies, data

availability and access, data fragmentation, technical and technological infrastructure, resource availability and capacity;

6. *Notes with deep concern* that, unless collective implementation is rapidly accelerated, including through enhanced international cooperation, improved actions and efforts and strengthened means of implementation, the 2030 targets and mission of the Framework will not be achieved, and stresses the imperative to address gaps, challenges and barriers in implementation to achieve the 2030 targets and mission;

[7. *Also notes with deep concern* that, if the 2030 targets and mission of the Framework are not achieved, [its 2050 goals and vision may be at risk [unless the provision of means of implementation are rapidly accelerated]]];]

8. [Decides][Agrees] that the provisions of the present decision[, as well as the global report,] [may][are to][should] be used to guide and prioritize future work over the period 2026–2030 to address gaps, challenges and barriers and foster possible opportunities to enhance collective progress in implementation and means of implementation in relation to the 2030 targets and mission, for all Parties, but especially for developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and that the provisions should be interpreted to be facilitative, non-intrusive and non-punitive;

[9. [Also decides][Reiterates][Recalls] that Parties [shall][should] retain flexibility with regard to developing [and implementing] national targets and associated actions, taking into account national circumstances, priorities and capabilities [and][within] the means of implementation available;]

10. *Notes* that the present decision is complemented by relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting and that the implementation of those decisions should be informed, as appropriate, by the present decision;

11. *Also notes* that the implementation of the Framework is supported by relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁶¹ and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,⁶² and recognizes that the governing bodies of the respective Protocols may take into account, as appropriate, relevant provisions of the present decision;

12. [Invites][Encourages] Parties and [actors other than national Governments] to consider, as appropriate and relevant, the non-prescriptive approaches⁶³ identified in the global report to address the gaps, challenges and barriers in the implementation of the Framework and to foster possible opportunities to enhanced collective progress in implementation, and notes that Parties may also use the policy-relevant actions described in relevant assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in that regard;

13. [Placeholder for the outcomes on the Kunming dialogue on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in support of the global review;]

*Yerevan pathway for accelerating the implementation
of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*

14. *Reaffirms* the Parties' commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Framework, including by taking into account the considerations in its section C, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, to advance the three objectives of the Convention

⁶¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁶² Ibid., vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁶³ The non-prescriptive approaches are listed in section III of the global report ([CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Add.3](#)). The reference will be updated to a decision of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties after adoption.

in a balanced and mutually supportive manner, including through enhanced international cooperation, improved actions and efforts and strengthened means of implementation;

Accelerating action and implementation

15. *Urges* Parties to accelerate implementation of the Framework, including by [increased ambition and by] addressing the gaps, challenges and barriers related to implementation, [scope and coverage, means of implementation, whole-of-government approaches, whole-of-society approaches, and data and knowledge[, as noted in paragraph 5 of the present decision,]] in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities[, and the means of implementation available to them];

[16. *Emphasizes* that accelerating implementation would need to be supported through increased action to address [both] the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss [and the transformation of economic and financial systems] [and sectors that have a [negative] impact on nature];]

[17. *Invites* [actors other than national Governments] to accelerate their contributions to the implementation of the Framework, [and[, taking into account national priorities and needs,][in a manner that is consistent with the needs and priorities of Parties,] [align][support][reinforce] the implementation priorities and needs of Parties with the implementation priorities and needs of Parties] [, as appropriate];]

[17. Alt. *Invites* [actors other than national Governments] to accelerate their contributions to the implementation of the Framework and support the implementation priorities and needs of Parties, as appropriate;]

18. [*Welcomes*][*Notes*] the voluntary coalitions, partnerships, initiatives and multi-stakeholder platforms that have been established to support the implementation [of specific aspects] of the Framework, and encourages Parties, [in accordance with national circumstances and priorities,] and invites other Governments and actors other than national Governments, to make effective use of relevant existing initiatives, and, where needed, establish new ones, aimed at enhancing the implementation of the Framework, prioritizing the targets and cross-cutting elements of the Framework for where Parties have reported the least progress towards their national targets, [including Targets 6, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19, as identified in subparagraph 5 (b),] and in a manner that is supportive of implementation by Parties at the national level, noting that such initiatives may complement and contribute to means of implementation and should not be seen as a substitute for [the obligations under the Convention regarding] means of implementation;

19. *Welcomes* the support provided by relevant partners, including the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and research networks, to implement the Framework, and invites these partners to provide further support, paying particular attention to areas where progress remains insufficient, while responding to the needs and priorities identified by Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island development States[, and Parties with economies in transition], including by facilitating peer-to-peer learning, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and information exchange;

Enhancing scope and coverage

20. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to finalize and submit their revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and seventh national report as soon as possible, noting that the submission of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports are obligations under Articles 6 and 26 of the Convention, and, where relevant and in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, take into account the gaps, challenges, barriers and opportunities identified in the global report, in particular the gaps and progress identified in paragraph 5 above;

21. *Encourages* Parties who have not already done so, on a voluntary basis, to develop, through inclusive processes, national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments, capacity-building and monitoring plans to guide effective implementation, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities;

[22. *[Invites][Also encourages][Welcomes]* Parties [that wish to do so], [on a voluntary basis and] in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, to strengthen their commitments and the scope and coverage of [their targets][the targets of the Framework], [including] through their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets, as appropriate and where relevant, [noting that the gaps are described in paragraph 5 above,][in particular with regard to Targets 1, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23, the consideration of marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems, and issues related to the drivers of biodiversity loss and issues related to [section C of the Framework, in particular] [whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, including participation, the engagement of actors other than national Governments, gender responsiveness, equitable governance and mainstreaming], as those are noted as gaps in paragraph 5 above,][while recognizing that the extent and pace at which developing country Parties are able to do so depend[, in part,] on the availability of adequate, predictable, timely and easily accessible means of implementation, and] while ensuring that such development or revision does not divert attention or resources away from actions to implement the Framework;]

[22 Alt. *Recognizes* that Parties that wish to do so, and in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, may further strengthen their commitments towards the implementation of the Framework through national instruments, as appropriate and where relevant, noting the gaps described in paragraph 5 above, while further recognizing that the extent and pace at which developing country Parties are able to do so depends on the availability of adequate, predictable, timely and easily accessible means of implementation, and while ensuring that such development or revision does not divert attention or resources away from actions to implement the Framework;]

Strengthening means of implementation

[23. *[Recognizes][Recalls]* that the full and effective implementation of the Framework relies[, inter alia,] on [having] the [necessary][provision of][adequate] means of implementation, including [adequate, predictable and easily accessible] financial resources, capacity, technology and technical and scientific resources, and that gaps in means of implementation are the most common barriers for the full and effective implementation of the Framework, especially for developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, [and Parties with economies in transition] as noted in paragraph 5;]

[24. *Invites* Parties, on a voluntary basis and as appropriate, to identify specific priorities to implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and corresponding necessary means of implementation, and to reflect those needs in relevant plans and policies and share that information, where relevant and appropriate;]

25. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, to mobilize domestic and international public and private finance for biodiversity in line with a view to filling the gaps identified in paragraph 5 above[, including by reducing perverse incentives, such as subsidies harmful to biodiversity];

26. *[Urges][Encourages][Invites]* developed country Parties, and invites other Parties in a position to do so, on a voluntary basis, as well as other Governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies and funds and other relevant organizations, to increase their support, including through [the provision of] [new,] adequate, predictable and timely means of implementation in an easily accessible manner, such as simplified access procedures and strengthened country ownership of supported activities, and to continue to provide transparent information on the resources provided [[and on the extent to which they have addressed the needs and priorities identified by] [Parties,

especially for]]][to] developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, [and Parties with economies in transition];

27. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to enhance the provision of adequate, predictable, timely and transparent means of implementation in an easily accessible manner to developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, including by simplifying access procedures and strengthening country ownership of activities to support the Framework, in accordance with national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to share through existing reporting arrangements, and without creating additional burdens, detailed [and disaggregated] information on the resources provided and how they address the needs and priorities identified by Parties through their projects, without prejudice to the process established under decision[s] [16/34](#) of 27 February 2025 [and 17/--];

28. *Also requests* the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme in the context of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative, to expedite the support to all eligible Parties on their enabling support activities for the development of biodiversity finance plans, in order to unlock financial resources for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as described in decision [15/7](#) of 19 December 2022;

[29. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies and funds and other organizations, to address [persistent gaps in equity, inclusion and] access to means of implementation, [including [by improving access to and increasing financial resources for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth]]][through direct access to financial resources],][in particular for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth];]

30. *Invites* relevant organizations, including the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, to continue to provide support for strengthening capacity-building and development initiatives and addressing gaps and challenges at the national and subnational levels;

Engaging the whole of government

31. *Invites* Parties, in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities, to strengthen the whole-of-government-approach to implementation, including by strengthening institutional, [interministerial,] policy, legal, fiscal, budgetary and regulatory coordination mechanisms, integrated planning, monitoring and reporting processes, and mainstreaming biodiversity and its multiple values across and within sectors;

32. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities, to promote policy coherence across biodiversity and other areas, including climate, food, water, health, land-use and sustainable development, in, inter alia, the implementation of national strategies and policies developed under the Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related multilateral environment agreements;

33. *Invites* Parties to integrate commitments and actions in support of the implementation of the Framework from subnational and local governments and different sectors of government in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in their national targets and national reports, as appropriate and where relevant;

Engaging the whole of society

34. *Emphasizes* that action from [actors other than national Governments], [in accordance with national biodiversity strategies and action plans] [in addition to][complements] the actions of Parties, [may] contribute[s] to the implementation of the Framework and that a more effective use of the contributions, knowledge, expertise and initiatives of [actors other than national Governments][, where applicable,] [may] represent[s] a significant opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the Framework;

35. [*Urges*][*Encourages*] Parties to strengthen the engagement of all [actors other than national Governments] [in particular by enabling the full and effective, equitable, inclusive and gender-responsive participation and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth,] in order to ensure that such actors are involved in consultation processes, planning and implementation[, in line with Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework][, in accordance with national legislation];

36. *Invites* [actors other than national Governments][indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth] to share information with Parties on their actions in relation to the implementation of the Framework[, including with regard to traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities used with [their] free, prior and informed consent⁶⁴[, in line with national legislation [and [relevant] international obligations]]];

37. *Invites* Parties, [in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities,] to reflect commitments and actions in support of the implementation of the Framework by [actors other than national Governments] [, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, [and] youth] [and other stakeholders,] in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets and national reports, as appropriate and where relevant;

Enhancing monitoring and knowledge

38. *Urges* Parties to further develop and/or strengthen national monitoring and knowledge management systems to address the gaps in data and knowledge mentioned above and to improve evidenced-based decision-making and the tracking of national progress in the implementation of the Framework;

[39. *Encourages* Parties to ensure that the foundational data needed for implementing the monitoring framework, in particular national ecosystem maps, are in place to support the operationalization of the ecosystem-based headline indicators;]

[40. *Also encourages* Parties, and [requests][invites] the Global Environment Facility and invites other Governments and other organizations, to provide support for addressing the technical and financial challenges faced by Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, in improving their national monitoring and knowledge management systems [and foundational data needed for implementing and monitoring the Framework], including by enhancing the provision of adequate, predictable, accessible and timely financial resources, technology transfer [on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed][on mutually agreed terms], technical assistance and capacity-building and development to developing country Parties in order to enable the effective implementation of the monitoring framework and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁶⁵]

41. *Invites* actors other than national Governments, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to support the efforts of Parties to improve national monitoring and knowledge management systems;

42. *Encourages* Parties to make full use of existing mechanisms, tools, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, capacity-building and development initiatives and plans, and enhanced regional cooperation to strengthen monitoring and knowledge management systems;

43. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, actors other than national Governments and the technical and scientific cooperation support centres supporting the implementation of the Framework

⁶⁴ Free, prior and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”.

⁶⁵ The section of paragraph 41 related to the Global Environment Facility will be duplicated in the decision on the financial mechanism to be adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

to make use of the information that is contained in the global report and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reports, when executing their respective mandates, and that is within their area of competence, where relevant;

44. *Encourages* Parties and [actors other than national Governments] to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the Framework, including by uploading them to the virtual library of the clearing-house mechanism, and invites Parties to make use of that information, where relevant;

[45. *Invites* Parties to engage in regional and subregional dialogues on the global review and the Yerevan Pathway for accelerating implementation of the Framework[, in line with paragraph 20 of decision [15/6](#)] [, with a view to sharing actions and efforts, as appropriate][and share [any][their] respective actions and efforts, as appropriate;]]]

46. *Invites* relevant partner organizations, in particular, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, in coordination with the Secretariat, to conduct workshops or dialogues, building on existing processes, as appropriate, on the findings of the first global review, with a view to promoting peer-to-peer learning and sharing experiences and best practices;

47. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to organize a fourth Bern Conference on cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Framework by multilateral environmental agreements, based on the findings of the global report and global review and to providing options to better align planning, monitoring and reporting obligations under the Convention and those under other relevant processes;

48. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to support the reporting by indigenous peoples and local communities on the implementation of the Framework including by continuing to support community-based monitoring and information systems and initiatives such as the *Local Biodiversity Outlook*;

49. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To take into account the present decision and the gaps, challenges, barriers and opportunities identified in the global report [and its key messages] in [the Secretariat's future work over the period 2026–2030, including] the review of the programmes of work;

(b) To facilitate efforts by Parties and [actors other than national Governments] to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the Framework, including on actions taken in follow-up to the global review, including through the virtual library of the clearing-house mechanism, while promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

(c) To provide a summary of the information submitted pursuant to subparagraph 49 (b) above at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held before the eighteenth meeting of the conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of resources;

(d) To continue to coordinate with partner organizations, including the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, the facilitation of peer-to-peer learning and capacity-building activities[, subject to the availability of resources];

[(e) To facilitate, in coordination with Parties, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant stakeholders, the holding of subregional and regional dialogues on the global review and the Yerevan Pathway for accelerating the implementation of the Framework and to compile views from Parties and stakeholders for the preparation of such dialogues, subject to the availability of resources;]

(f) To make the information contained in the submitted national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets, national reports and commitments from actors other than national Governments more easily accessible;

(g) To make the findings from the global report easily accessible, including through the development of information dashboards on the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity;⁶⁶

(h) To continue to coordinate and collaborate with relevant partners to provide capacity-building and development support to Parties and actors other than national Governments aimed at improving national monitoring and knowledge management systems.

⁶⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Item 9 (b)**Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from draft decision B in recommendation [7/1](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Further enhancing planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, including the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [15/4](#), [15/5](#), [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024 and [16/31](#) and [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025,

Noting that there are still gaps related to the coverage, methodologies and metadata for existing indicators and the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁶⁷

Noting with appreciation the support provided to Parties for developing national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports,

1. *Welcomes* with appreciation the efforts made by Parties to develop national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁶⁸ and to develop and submit their seventh national reports in a timely manner;

2. *Notes with concern* that all Parties, especially developing country Parties, and in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, faced institutional, technical, capacity and resource challenges in preparing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reports, including challenges related to delays in the initiation of support from the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies for preparing those policy documents, that some Parties were not able to provide complete national reports, in particular in relation to the use of indicators, and that some Parties were not able to develop and submit national biodiversity strategies and action plans aligned with national targets and national reports in time for them to be considered in the preparation of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework;

3. *Urges* Parties to ensure that their most recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets are made available through the online reporting tool, in particular before preparing their eighth national reports;

[4. *Invites* Parties, where relevant, to provide [more detailed] information on their national targets through the online reporting tool, as such information is relevant for the second global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, in particular, [more] details or optional information in the template [on the scope and coverage of national targets, including of the biomes, drivers and global target elements addressed under each national target][[, which would [enable the assessment of the implementation of][be consistent with] section C of the Framework,] or information on actions or efforts from across Government] [and society, in particular contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth];]

⁶⁷ Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

⁶⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

[4. Alt. *Invites* Parties, where relevant, and for those that wish to do so, to further complete the optional fields in the reporting template for national targets, in particular the optional information in the template on the application of considerations in section C of the Framework or actions or efforts of actors other than the national Governments [and information on the scope and coverage of national targets, including with regard to the biomes, drivers and global target elements addressed under each national target];]

5. *Invites* actors other than national Governments to continue to share information through the online reporting tool on their commitments towards the implementation of the Framework, including on progress made towards meeting those commitments, and to do so well ahead of the deadline for the eighth national report of 30 June 2029;

6. *Recognizes* that there were information and data gaps in the global report due to the fact that not all Parties had provided national biodiversity strategies and action plans and a national report and that the national reports that were provided contained information gaps, in particular in relation to the use of indicators, as described in decision 17/-- on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework;

7. *Emphasizes* the fact that, in future global reviews and global reports, scientific robustness, inclusiveness, transparency and the ability to assess implementation outcomes and effectiveness should be strengthened [[and that use should be made of the][, including by basing them on the] full list of agreed sources[, as contained in paragraph 18 of decision [16/32](#)]] [, recognizing national reports as their primary source];

8. *Stresses* that improving the second global review will require strengthening national reporting, including the use of indicators and the further improvement of national monitoring systems, and the process for preparing the second global report;

9. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, and invites its implementing agencies, before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to ensure that timely, adequate and accessible resources [and required organizational measures] are provided for the eighth round of national reporting, including support for making use of the headline indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to initiate such support in a timely [and accelerated] manner and in a way that supports country ownership and the early engagement of relevant national authorities;

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of the experience gained in the preparation of the seventh national reports and the first global review, to review [[and undertake a technical][and] update[, on the basis of][noting] decision [16/32](#)], if needed, the concrete procedures for the second global review and the template for the eighth national report, with a view to enhancing their robustness, transparency and effectiveness, and to consider opportunities for enhancing engagement of actors other than national Governments[, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth,] in those processes, while stressing the need to ensure consistency between the seventh and eighth national reports and the first and second global reports and preserving the Party-driven, collective, facilitative, non-intrusive and non-punitive nature of the global review;

[11. *Also requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider how the global review to be undertaken by the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will inform the development of a post-2030 strategic plan for the Convention and to provide a concrete proposal for how such a plan could be developed between the eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, including the role of the global review in informing that process;]

12. *Further requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, options for reducing the reporting burden on Parties and, as appropriate, improving coherence and interoperability among relevant planning, monitoring, reporting and review processes, including those under the Rio conventions and

other biodiversity-related multilateral environment agreements, while respecting their respective legal mandates and the authority and decisions of their governing bodies and avoiding duplication and additional reporting requirements, for further consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

13. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scientific and technical inputs relevant to the second global review, specifically taking into account the need to address methodological, scientific, technical and data limitations of the first global review, including [further methodological development of headline indicators that remain at a low level of development and methodological readiness,] ways to reflect, among other inputs, the relevant deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular its second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, while recognizing that [the sources of information were agreed in paragraph 18 decision [16/32](#) and that] the eighth national reports remain the primary source of information for the second global review, and respecting the respective mandates of the Convention and the Platform;

14. *Emphasizes* the scientific and technical importance of maintaining comparability between the seventh and eighth national reports and the first and second global reports, as well as the need to ensure that any changes to the planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms provide continuity, do not disrupt the existing efforts of Parties to establish national monitoring [systems][mechanisms] and do not increase the reporting burden related to the indicators [for the eighth national report, while allowing for development in national monitoring [systems][mechanisms]];

15. *Notes with concern* that the methodological readiness of headline indicators listed in methodological statuses 1, 2 and 3 in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#)⁶⁹ remains low, which impedes national reporting;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the technical updates to the metadata for the headline indicators, as contained in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#), and the support provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its partners to the further development and operationalization of some headline indicators, as described in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/8/Rev.1](#);

[17. *Agrees* to the inclusion of the additional component and complementary indicators contained in annex I to the present decision in the monitoring framework, noting that their use in national reporting is optional and subject to national circumstances;]

[17 Alt. *Takes note* of the additional component and complementary indicators proposed in annex I to the present decision, noting that Parties may use them in national reporting and that their use is optional and subject to national circumstances;]

18. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group, with a mandate until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework, and in particular to support the eighth round of national reporting in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present decision;

19. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework established pursuant to paragraph 18 above, for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

20. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, building on its

⁶⁹ I.e. indicators B.1, C.1, C.2, D.3, 1.1, 7.2 (pesticide environment concentration), 9.1, 9.2, 15.1, 18.2, 21.1 and 22.1.

recommendations [1/3](#) and [1/5](#) of 30 October 2025, to provide advice on the integration of traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and community-based monitoring into the monitoring framework, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to submitting guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

21. *Invites* Parties, upon their request and on a facilitative, non-intrusive and non-punitive basis, to undertake a voluntary peer review of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;⁷⁰

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) When further developing the functionality of the online reporting tool, to improve its functionality for indicator reporting and data entry [and extraction], ensuring that existing global data are available through the tool, and to identify possible improvements to the tool and make them, as needed;

(b) To collaborate with relevant partners, including the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, other United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and research organizations, including those addressing issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and the private sector, to support the further operationalization of the monitoring framework, including by supporting technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building and development related to the use of the monitoring framework and the development of national biodiversity monitoring systems;

(c) To support the further development of metadata for indicators, under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework;

(d) To keep the metadata for all headline and binary indicators under review, as necessary, in order to reflect methodological improvements, but without introducing substantive changes to methodology;

(e) To collect information from Parties related to subparagraphs 2 (a), (d) and (e) of annex II to the present decision and make that information available to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for its consideration when undertaking its work;

(f) To identify potential collaborators for the development of headline indicators 1.1[, 7.2 (pesticide environment concentration)] and 9.1;

(g) To encourage the partner organizations providing global data to ensure the timely update and validation of those data;

(h) To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, an analysis of the lessons learned and challenges identified when undertaking the global review process, including on experiences with the use of the online reporting tool [and in accessing financial resources from the Global Environment Facility, including their timely allocation and disbursement to recipient countries,] for national reporting, and to make the analysis available at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(i) To prepare [options for possible] [technical] updates to the reporting template for the eighth national report, taking into account the analysis [and requests] mentioned in subparagraphs (a), (e) and (h) above[and the need [to keep changes to the reporting template to a minimum] and, as necessary, to ensure comparability between the seventh and eighth national reports] [, and to make

⁷⁰ The methodology for the voluntary peer review is provided in the annex to document [CBD/SBI/6/INF/14](#).

that information available [for consideration] at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties];

(j) To prepare draft [options to enhance the] procedures [on the basis of decision [16/32](#)] for the second global review, taking into account the analysis undertaken in response to the request in subparagraph 22 (h) above, [on the basis of decision [16/32](#),] [and prepare a draft process for developing [any post-2030 strategic instrument][the post-2030 strategic plan][the post-2030 Framework]] for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(k) To collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Joint Liaison Group, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Bern process, and in consultation with Parties, on options for reducing the reporting burden on Parties and, as appropriate, improving coherence and interoperability among relevant planning, monitoring, reporting and review processes, including those under the Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related multilateral environment agreements, while respecting their respective legal mandates and the authority and decisions of their governing bodies, subject to the availability of resources;

(l) To enhance the functionality of the online reporting tool, including its ease of use, on the basis of the analysis undertaken under subparagraph 22 (h) above and with a view to enabling actors other than national Governments to report voluntarily on progress made in meeting the commitments that they have submitted through the tool, [and to enable indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth to submit best practices and contributions to implementation through the virtual library of the clearing-house mechanism].

Annex I

Optional component and complementary indicators to be added to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<i>Most relevant goal or target</i>	<i>Indicator type</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
A	Complementary	Scorecard of genetic diversity in wild species
A	Complementary	Dendritic connectivity index
4	Complementary	Number and list of tree and other woody plant species that have been included in in situ conservation programmes of forest genetic resources
4	Complementary	Extent of lost farmed types of aquaculture species
4	Complementary	Extent of populations of wild relatives of aquaculture species subject to conservation measures
4	Complementary	Extent of ex situ conservation for important farmed types of aquatic genetic resources
4	Complementary	Extent of non-native species used in aquaculture posing a risk for native biodiversity
7	Complementary	Levels and trends of mercury and mercury compounds in the environment and in human beings due to anthropogenic emissions and releases
7	Complementary	Freshwater eutrophication index
11	Complementary	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
16	Complementary	Global environmental impacts of consumption indicator
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related market price support

<i>Most relevant goal or target</i>	<i>Indicator type</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related non-exempt direct payments
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related other product-specific support
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related product-specific equivalent measurement of support
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related non-product-specific aggregated measurement of support
19	Complementary	Biodiversity investment ratio

Annex II

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁷¹ shall develop:

(a) Technical advice on the further development of the methodology and metadata of the headline indicators listed in methodological statuses 1, 2 and 3 in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#), as appropriate;

(b) Practical advice on the use and operationalization of the metadata for headline indicators in national monitoring and reporting processes, including on the use of disaggregation options.

2. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall work on the basis of decisions [15/4](#), [15/5](#), [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024, [16/31](#), [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025 and 17/-- of XX⁷² and the metadata for the headline indicators⁷³ and take into account:

(a) The experience of Parties in preparing their seventh national reports, including the technical, capacity and resource gaps that they faced in using the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁷⁴

(b) The review of the use of indicators in the seventh national reports;⁷⁵

(c) Relevant findings from the global report of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and lessons learned from its preparation;

(d) The reporting burden on Parties;

(e) The capacity, technical, institutional and financial needs of Parties and the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States;

(f) Relevant findings of the methodological assessments on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people and on spatial planning and ecological connectivity being prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

⁷¹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁷² Decision on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework to be adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁷³ See [CBD/COP/16/INF/4](#) and [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#).

⁷⁴ Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

⁷⁵ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/11](#).

(g) The revised guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.⁷⁶

3. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall work with relevant organizations and entities, including the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the organizations and entities identified in table 1 of annex II to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/2](#), as appropriate.

4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall be composed of 30 technical experts nominated by Parties, including experts on statistics, biodiversity monitoring, national statistical and biodiversity information systems, data management and governance, capacity-building and development, regional cooperation, biodiversity finance, national reporting processes and relevant social and natural sciences, and up to 15 technical experts nominated by observer organizations and other relevant organizations. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, shall select experts from the nominations submitted by Parties and organizations with due regard to representation of various areas of technical expertise; ensuring balance in expertise on all aspects of the goals and targets of the Framework; also taking into account geographical representation; the representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth groups and major stakeholders; gender balance; the special conditions of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition; and the special situation of developing countries that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas.

5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall nominate two co-chairs from among the selected experts, one from a developed country and one from a developing country.

6. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Co-Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities shall be invited to participate, ex officio, in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

7. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall also seek cooperation with and may also invite, as appropriate, other experts, including representatives of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the organizations and entities identified in table 1 of annex II to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/2](#), to contribute their expertise and experiences on specific issues related to the terms of reference of the Expert Group while avoiding duplication.

8. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall primarily conduct its work electronically and, subject to the availability of resources, also meet in person, if necessary.

9. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall be established and start its work immediately following approval by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁷⁶ [CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1](#).

Item 10 (a)**Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities: modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [1/2](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

The Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging the unique role of indigenous peoples and local communities [and of people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles][, including women and youth among them,][, as appropriate, in line with national priorities and circumstances,] their innovations, practices and traditional knowledge [and technologies] in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁷⁷ and its Protocols and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁷⁸ and their contributions to the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and recognizing the need for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities established by decision [16/5](#) of 1 November 2024,

1. *[Adopts]* the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities annexed to the present decision;

[2. *Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to support the work of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities by further incorporating and promoting the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030;⁷⁹]

3 *Encourages* Parties, [in accordance with national priorities and circumstances,] and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to continue and enhance their support for the full and effective participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities [and of people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles][, as appropriate, in line with national priorities and circumstances,] in the meetings of [the subsidiary bodies and, as applicable, their governing structures][the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities], including [by ensuring that the host countries deliver entry visas to all participants designated by Parties and national organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities to attend official meetings held under the Convention, and] through contributions to the Special

⁷⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁷⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁷⁹ Decision [16/4](#), annex.

Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

[Annex

Proposed modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

I. Functions

1. The Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸⁰ Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities shall perform its functions under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁸¹ and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸² for items referred to it by them. The Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities shall work in collaboration with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and carry out its functions taking into account their roles, functions and mandates, with a view to ensuring complementarity with their work and applying procedures that avoid overlaps. The functions of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are:

(a) To promote, support and review the implementation of the work undertaken under the Convention pertaining to Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) To provide advice to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, as well as[, upon request from any of the three governing bodies,] to the other subsidiary bodies[, on knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and on matters of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities that are within the scope of the Convention and its Protocols].

II. Operating principles

2. In carrying out its functions, the Subsidiary Body shall align its work with [the Framework and] future strategic plans and prioritize the tasks that need early action.

[3. The functions of the Subsidiary Body shall be guided by the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, gender responsiveness, equity, [intergenerational dialogue,] respect for rights, in accordance with national legislation, [the recognition of diverse knowledge systems,] cost-efficiency and collaboration with the other subsidiary bodies.]

4. The Subsidiary Body shall ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, youth and knowledge holders among them, in all aspects of its work.

⁸⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁸² *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

5. In [promoting the implementation of [work][the programme of work] on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities [to 2030]][carrying out its functions], the Subsidiary Body shall cooperate with and will benefit from the assistance of United Nations entities, expert bodies and processes that have complementary functions and work on matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities.

III. Procedural matters

6. In line with paragraph 5 of rule 26 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the meetings of the Subsidiary Body, with the exception of rule 18.

7. When the Subsidiary Body serves a Protocol to the Convention, decisions under the Protocol shall be taken only by the Parties to the Protocol.

8. The Subsidiary Body shall undertake any tasks that fall within the scope of its programme of work and those that are referred to it by the Conference of the Parties or the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the respective Protocol and shall report on its work to those bodies.

IV. Bureau and co-chairs

9. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties shall serve as the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body. [In its modalities, the Subsidiary Body shall function as Party-led process, and shall clarify the roles of the Parties and the Bureau.]

[10. The Subsidiary Body shall have two co-chairs elected by the Conference of the Parties. One co-chair shall be nominated by Parties from the United Nations regional group that exercises its turn, in a rotation among United Nations regional groups.⁸³ The other co-chair, representing indigenous peoples and local communities, shall be nominated on a rotational-basis among the [seven sociocultural regions]⁸⁴ [applied under the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues][United Nations regional groups.]]

11. Nominations shall be carried out by [indigenous peoples and local communities through their own governance structure, representatives and organizations][organizations or representative bodies[, as endorsed by Parties,] of indigenous peoples and local communities [[officially registered] [in their respective countries] [at the national level]]].

12. At least one of the co-chairs shall be selected from a developing country, taking into account gender and geographical balance. The co-chairs shall not be from the same region. The co-chairs shall take office from the end of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which they have been elected and remain in office until their successors take office at the end of the following ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

13. Candidates for the co-chairing of the Subsidiary Body should have experience in the processes of the Convention and competence in matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of the Convention. When identifying a candidate,[the regional group and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities] [should take into account] the

[⁸³ Following the practice of rotation in the chairing of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and with a view to avoiding that, at any one time, a regional group provides the chairs of more than one subsidiary body, the order of the regions from which the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities is elected shall be as follows: African States, Western European and other States, Asia-Pacific States, Latin America and Caribbean States and Eastern European States.]

⁸⁴ [For the purpose of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Arctic sociocultural region comprises the following indigenous peoples: Atabaskian, Aleut, Dolgan, Gvichin, Kereki, Kety, Koryak, Mansi, Nganasan, Nenets, Saami, Selkup, Khanty, Chuvan, Chukchi, Evenk, Even, Enets, Inuit and Yakigir.]

availability of time that the candidates have for the work of the Subsidiary Body [should be taken into account].

14. In the event that the co-chair nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties is from a country that is not a Party to one or both Protocols, a substitute shall be assigned from among members of the Bureau representing a Party to the Protocol to chair items related to one or the other Protocol.

15. The co-chairs of the Subsidiary Body shall be ex officio members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. The President of the Conference of the Parties shall invite the co-chairs of the Subsidiary Body to the sessions of the Bureau on matters related to the Subsidiary Body.

[16. Capacity-building on the processes of the Convention shall be provided to the representative of indigenous peoples and local communities nominated as co-chair.]

[17. Further to the established [and effective] practice of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body shall continue to invite representatives of [organizations or representative bodies of] indigenous peoples and local communities [officially registered] [in their respective countries] to designate at the beginning of each meeting of the Subsidiary Body one representative each from [the United Nations regional groups][the seven sociocultural regions [applied under][identified by][acknowledged by] the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues] [following selection procedures and structures determined by each region] to participate in the work of the Subsidiary Body, as friends of the Bureau. [Candidates for the function of friends of the Bureau should have strong connections with indigenous peoples and local communities at the national and local levels in their respective countries, experience in the processes of the Convention and competence in matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities.] [Similar to the rule for Bureau members, friends of the Bureau may be elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms.]]

[17. alt. At the beginning of each meeting of the Subsidiary Body, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body shall invite [one][two] representative[s] from each region, in a balanced manner between indigenous peoples and local communities, [[officially] registered or recognized in their respective country] to participate in the work of the Subsidiary Body, as friends of the Bureau.]

V. Budgetary matters

18. The Subsidiary Body shall meet once in each intersessional period, back-to-back with meetings of other subsidiary bodies, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties[, with due consideration for the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of [developing country Parties] [and] [indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them][, giving special consideration to indigenous peoples and local communities from developing country Parties]].

19. Should the Conference of the Parties consider it necessary to the Subsidiary Body to carry out its mandate, [and subject to the availability of resources,] [as appropriate,] ad hoc technical expert groups may be established, with full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and in accordance with section H, paragraph 18, of the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as contained in annex III to decision [VIII/10](#) of 31 March 2006.

20. The number and length of the meetings and activities of the Subsidiary Body and its expert groups shall be reflected in the budget adopted by the Conference of the Parties or extrabudgetary funding.

VI. Organizational matters

21. The Subsidiary Body may, within the budgetary resources approved by the Conference of the Parties [or the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena or Nagoya Protocols] in respect to a specific decision by [that body][those bodies] within the mandate of the Subsidiary Body, make requests to the Executive Secretary and use mechanisms under the Convention or its Protocols, as appropriate.

22. The Executive Secretary shall provide to the Subsidiary Body the support necessary to carry out its functions and mandate. [The Subsidiary Body, may, as appropriate,[and subject to the availability of resources,] use mechanisms that are established under the Convention.] The meetings of the Subsidiary Body shall be conducted in plenary sessions [or, where the necessary budgetary resources have been approved by the Conference of the Parties[, in open-ended sessional working groups, as appropriate.] [Up to two open-ended sessional working groups of the Subsidiary Body may be established and operate simultaneously during meetings of the Subsidiary Body.] The working groups would not meet in parallel to the plenary sessions. The working groups shall be established on the basis of well-defined terms of reference and be open to all Parties and observers].

VII. Focal points

23. Parties should designate national focal points[, including from indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate,] to follow up on the work of the Subsidiary Body. [The existing national focal points for Article 8(j) and related provision of the Convention may continue to be the focal points for the Subsidiary Body.] [National focal points should work with indigenous peoples and local communities to help to facilitate their full and effective participation in the work of the Subsidiary Body, as appropriate.] [Parties are encouraged to designate [additional] national focal points from indigenous peoples and local communities to follow up on the work of the Subsidiary Body and to engage with them at the national and local levels.]

VIII. Documentation

24. The Secretariat shall make the official pre-session documentation for meetings of the Subsidiary Body available in the six official languages of the United Nations at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting, in accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties[, and shall further endeavour to make meeting documents available three months before the opening of each meeting].

25. The number and length of documents, including information documents, shall be kept to a minimum, and documentation shall include proposed conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Subsidiary Body.

]

Item 10 (b) (i)

Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities: implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030: guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities (Task 1.1); and guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2)

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [1/3](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Proposed elements for the guidelines related to Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024, by which it adopted the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸⁵ related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, and in particular Tasks 1.1 and 1.2, directed to the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, to develop guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁸⁶ including on indigenous and traditional territories, and guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments to support the implementation of Targets 1 and 14 of the Framework, respectively, and recognizing the alignment of the programme of work with the Framework,

[Recalling also decision [16/6](#) of 1 November 2024,]

[Acknowledging the need to address the underrepresentation of indigenous peoples and local communities from [developing countries][various regions] and specific challenges faced by developing countries in the work of the Convention,]

Taking note of the output of the expert workshop to support the implementation of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including draft guidelines,⁸⁷

1. *[Adopts] the [placeholder for the annex title] contained in the annex to the present decision;*
2. *Encourages Parties, and invites other Governments, to integrate and apply the guidelines [or their elements], as appropriate and in accordance with national legal frameworks, in*

⁸⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁸⁶ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁸⁷ [CBD/A8J/WS/2025/2/3](#).

spatial planning processes, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and environmental impact assessment procedures, [consistent with][respecting] the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, [arising] under [relevant] international [human rights] law and instruments;

3. *Also encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant actors in a position to do so, to support the dissemination of the guidelines, including through their translation into the languages of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

4. *Further encourages* Parties to identify and promote best practices to secure land tenure and governance by indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with Task 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities [and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances][and international obligations];

[5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, and invites the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, to facilitate [capacity-building,] technical cooperation and the exchange of information to assist Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the guidelines;]

[5.[alt] *Invites* Parties and other Governments, in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders, to identify and share their capacity-building and development needs for implementing the guidelines through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, and invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to offer support to address the capacity needs thus identified;]

6. *Encourages* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to monitor and evaluate the use and effectiveness of the guidelines and report thereon in national reports, including through the clearing-house mechanism, and by means of other appropriate mechanisms, such as community-based monitoring and information systems, which should be recognized as relevant data sources, in accordance with national circumstances;

[7. *Encourages* Parties to strengthen the effective participation and co-leadership of indigenous peoples and local communities, including people of African descent, where appropriate, in the design, implementation and monitoring of biodiversity policies and programmes, as well as in biodiversity assessments and reporting, ensuring their full and effective participation and incorporating community-based monitoring indicators and traditional knowledge systems as complementary to other data sources, in accordance with national circumstances.]

Annex

[Voluntary guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and their [indigenous and] traditional territories in spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, [other effective] [area-based] conservation and environmental impact assessments]

I. Rationale

1. By its decision [16/5](#) of 1 November 2024, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸⁸ established the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The Subsidiary Body is mandated to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties, other subsidiary bodies and, upon request, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the

⁸⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁸⁹ and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,⁹⁰ on matters concerning indigenous peoples and local communities.

2. By its decision [16/4](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030. The objective of the programme of work is to promote the implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.⁹¹ In the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties affirmed the importance of promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and levels of implementation, in recognition of the close connection that indigenous peoples and local communities have with biological diversity and the Convention and its Protocols.

3. Element 1 of the programme of work, on conservation and ecosystem restoration, includes two tasks for the Subsidiary Body:

Task 1.1. Develop guidelines,⁹² with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Task 1.2. Identify and promote best practices to secure land tenure and governance by indigenous peoples and local communities and develop guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations.

4. The present guidelines have been developed by the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities pursuant to Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. The guidelines are aimed at Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant actors, including, relevant conservation and ecosystem restoration organizations, academia and research institutions, the private sector and other entities that will implement all elements of the guidelines.

5. While applying these guidelines, Parties should, as appropriate, adopt a comprehensive protection and a differentiated approach for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, in accordance with national circumstances, with a view to strengthening the legal and policy framework for spatial planning, ecosystem restoration and conservation, and to avoiding activities that may put them at risk.

II. Objectives

6. The objectives of the guidelines are to:

(a) Provide guidance on the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands, territories and waters, and resource use systems of indigenous peoples and local communities in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments to support the implementation of Targets 1 and 14 of the Framework;

⁸⁹ Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁹⁰ Ibid., vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁹¹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁹² For the purpose of the present guidelines, “guidelines” refers to voluntary guidelines.

(b) Provide legal and policy guidance to support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making processes and the implementation of ecosystem restoration activities, recognizing their contribution to the implementation of Target 2 of the Framework through their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and through indigenous and traditional governance systems;

(c) Provide legal and policy guidance for the identification, recognition, protection and promotion of, and respect and support for, the indigenous and traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework.

III. Guiding principles

7. The present guidelines should be applied in accordance with national legislation and circumstances and international law and instruments and in a manner that is consistent with section C of the Framework and the general principles outlined in the programme of work.

[A. Spiritual and cultural relationships]

8. Conservation and ecosystem restoration measures, as well as spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change and environmental impact assessments, should be designed in a manner that recognizes and respects the spiritual and biocultural relationships that indigenous peoples and local communities have with biodiversity in their lands, territories and waters.

B. Recognition of and respect for customary land and water tenure and governance systems

9. The customary tenure over land, water and territories, governance systems, customary law and procedures of indigenous peoples and local communities should be recognized and respected.

C. Human rights-based approach

10. Conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments should follow a human rights-based approach respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities[, including the rights to participate in decision-making matters that would affect them and to the just and fair resolution of disputes, [in accordance][consistent] with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples⁹³ and international human rights law]. [The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples, including by promoting their full and effective participation in all matters of concern to them, including in relation to lands, waters, and territories, health, culture, spirituality, governance and self-determination. In this regard, nothing in the present guidelines may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights that indigenous peoples currently have or may acquire in future.] The rights of individuals arising from human rights law, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and the rule of law should also be acknowledged.

D. Free, prior and informed consent

11. The free, prior and informed consent⁹⁴ of indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected in the design and implementation of spatial planning and environmental impact assessment activities, as appropriate, including those related to the designation and management of conservation and restoration areas that may have an impact on their lands, territories, waters, resources and cultural heritage, in accordance with national circumstances.

⁹³ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

⁹⁴ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”.

E. Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

12. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities provide valuable cultural guidance and information to enhance and support the implementation of conservation and ecosystem restoration measures, spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change and environmental impact assessments, in addition to other knowledge systems. Traditional knowledge systems should therefore be recognized, respected, valued and protected, including through the respect for the free, prior and informed consent of traditional knowledge holders.

F. Gender equality and intergenerational equity

13. The critical roles of women and girls, children and youth, knowledge holders and elders from indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments should be recognized. Women and girls among indigenous peoples and local communities play an important role in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge. Gender-responsive approaches should address barriers to the participation, leadership and benefit-sharing of women and girls, and children and youth from indigenous peoples and local communities and should safeguard the transmission of gender-specific knowledge.

14. The implementation of the present guidelines should be guided by the principles of intergenerational equity to ensure that the needs of the present generation are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and that younger generations can participate meaningfully in decision-making at all levels.

G. Recognition of diverse value systems

15. Conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments should be undertaken in a manner that respects the diverse value systems of indigenous peoples and local communities. Such concepts as Mother Earth, spirituality, nature's gifts and the rights of nature should be acknowledged and respected in accordance with section C of the Framework and national circumstances. The cultural, spiritual and holistic relationships of indigenous peoples and local communities with their lands, territories and waters and their distinct knowledge systems and governance institutions should also be acknowledged and respected.]

IV. Inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes

16. National laws and policy frameworks should, as appropriate, ensure the recognition of traditional lands and resource use in participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and effective management processes that address land- and sea-use change, including those led by or jointly developed with indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to their lands, territories, waters and resources, including marine and coastal areas.

17. Spatial planning and effective management measures led by indigenous peoples and local communities that address land- and sea-use change should be considered and reflected, as appropriate, in the development, revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as in land-use planning and marine spatial planning.

18. Spatial planning and land-use-related frameworks and processes should, as appropriate, recognize land- and sea-use mapping led by indigenous peoples and local communities, developed in accordance with their cultural, governance and spiritual dimensions and using traditional toponyms.

19. Decision-making in spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change should promote cooperation and collaboration with indigenous peoples and local

communities, through the recognition, as appropriate, of indigenous and traditional governance systems.

V. Contributions to the effective restoration of degraded ecosystems⁹⁵

20. The rights and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in ecosystem restoration activities, which are grounded in their holistic relationships with their lands, territories and waters should be respected and promoted by, inter alia, supporting biocultural approaches, customary sustainable use of biodiversity, traditional knowledge systems and other forms of stewardship, such as those related to the governance and land tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

21. Restoration efforts should take into account traditional knowledge and the principles of free, prior and informed consent[, as appropriate]. In accordance with indigenous and traditional governance systems, the roles of elders, knowledge holders, women and girls, and children and youth from indigenous peoples and local communities should be recognized and strengthened in all aspects of restoration.

22. Legislative, administrative and policy measures related to ecosystem restoration should be developed in line with Target 2 of the Framework and in a manner that recognizes and safeguards the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities. Measures should be developed with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and in all processes related to planning, development, implementation and monitoring. Assessments of degraded ecosystems should draw upon diverse knowledge systems, including scientific assessments and the traditional knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities.

23. Restoration efforts should be co-designed and co-developed with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant government authorities and reflected in national restoration plans and national reporting, ensuring that the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities are visible, supported and tracked through the use of appropriate indicators.

24. Restoration efforts in indigenous and traditional territories should, where possible, contribute to food and water security, climate and community resilience, income generation and the cultural and lifestyle strengthening of indigenous peoples and local communities.

VI. Recognition of and respect for indigenous and traditional territories in the implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

25. Legal, administrative and policy measures for the national identification and recognition of, and respect for, indigenous and traditional territories should be developed, adopted and implemented. Those measures should recognize, as appropriate, the customary tenure systems, governance institutions, cultural significance, sacred sites, conservation roles, traditional economies and rights over lands, waters, territories and resources of indigenous peoples and local communities.

[26. [The recognition of indigenous and traditional territories [in accordance with Target 3 of the Framework and national circumstances] [should[, as appropriate,] be considered a distinct system that contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, complementary to and different from protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures] [and, therefore, does not require a classification under the category of protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures.]] [Where indigenous and traditional territories are already classified as protected areas or other effective area-based conservation, zoning measures should apply with clear

⁹⁵ The territories, lands and waters of indigenous peoples and local communities should not be considered as inherently in need of restoration.

identification of zones with access for indigenous peoples and local communities to practice their traditional sustainable use and cultural practices].]

VII. Environmental impact assessments

27. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments Regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or Which Are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities⁹⁶ provide a culturally appropriate framework for conducting environmental, cultural and social impact assessments related to developments proposed on or near sacred sites, or on lands, territories and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities.⁹⁷

28. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines remain valid and applicable to environmental impact assessments, in particular in the context of the implementation of the Framework and Task 1.2 of the programme of work.

29. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines include cultural and social dimensions in environmental impact assessments, including evaluating impacts on spiritual values, cultural practices, customary governance systems, traditional livelihoods and intergenerational knowledge transmission.

30. Parties, other Governments, the private sector and organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities may develop and apply other recognized, applicable and effective principles, standards, agreements and protocols for environmental, cultural and social impact assessments.

VIII. Institutional and administrative mechanisms

A. Recognition of customary governance systems

31. The governance systems of indigenous peoples and local communities, including traditional and customary governance systems, should be recognized and supported as unique and legitimate frameworks for the stewardship, conservation and restoration of biodiversity, in accordance with national legislation and circumstances, as well as international law and instruments. This recognition should extend to customary laws, community protocols, norms, values and rules related to land, water and marine management, as well as the protection of sacred sites.

32. Enabling conditions should be created to ensure support for indigenous peoples and local communities in strengthening and exercising their governance systems for stewardship, conservation and restoration of biodiversity, for example, through the recognition of and support for community mapping, the participatory demarcation of their territories and the development of community-led monitoring systems, in accordance with national legislation and circumstances.

33. Where applicable, the autonomy of indigenous peoples and local communities in the management and governance of their lands, territories and waters, including marine and coastal areas, should be respected through the recognition of their justice and governance systems and the provision of financial and technical support.

[34. Strengthening the customary governance systems of indigenous peoples and local communities for stewardship, conservation and restoration of biodiversity supports more effective spatial planning and sustainable management.]

B. Free, prior and informed consent

35. Mechanisms, legislation, administrative, corporate and policy measures or protocols should be developed and implemented in consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities, as

⁹⁶ Decision [VII/16 F](#), annex.

⁹⁷ The Conference of the Parties decided to use “indigenous peoples and local communities” in decision [XII/12](#) and “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement” depending on national circumstances, in the Mo’otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines in decision [XIII/18](#).

appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances and international instruments, with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent before the establishment, expansion or change of any protected area or any other effective area-based conservation measures affecting their lands, territories and waters, including marine and coastal areas, or their cultural values and heritage. Free, prior and informed consent should be obtained through consultations conducted in good faith as part of environmental impact assessments and in accordance with national legislation and the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines.

36. Free, prior and informed consent should be understood as an ongoing process, allowing communities to determine what information should be shared or withheld, in particular with regard to sacred sites and culturally sensitive information.

37. Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should only be accessed and used with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with customary protocols, national legislation and international instruments.

C. Administrative arrangements

38. Indigenous and traditional mechanisms, including relevant governance frameworks, in accordance with indigenous and traditional governance systems should be established or, as needed, strengthened or maintained.

39. Co-management bodies should be established or strengthened under national legislation, as appropriate, to guide the planning, implementation and monitoring of conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments. Co-management bodies should ensure an equitable representation of government and indigenous peoples and local communities.

40. Areas that are governed and managed by indigenous peoples and local communities in accordance with their customary laws and practices, governance systems and institutional frameworks should be recognized in the context of conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments, in line with national legislation and circumstances, and international instruments.

41. The customary law, procedures and governance systems of indigenous peoples and local communities may be recognized and respected in the design, management and monitoring of protected areas, as appropriate. Such recognition may also be reflected in other effective area-based conservation measures, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

42. Consultative and collaborative mechanisms should be established or, as needed, strengthened between governments and [legitimate] representative bodies and organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities[, as determined by them,] [in their respective countries,] in relation to community mapping initiatives and monitoring systems.

43. Mechanisms, legislation, administrative, corporate and policy measures, including safeguards, grievance mechanisms and monitoring systems, should be developed and implemented to prevent marginalization, displacement or cultural harm in connection with conservation, restoration and sustainable use efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

D. Mechanisms for conflict resolution

44. Mechanisms, legislation, administrative, corporate and policy measures or protocols for conflict prevention, resolution and grievance redress should be established or, as needed, strengthened. Those systems should recognize and respect customary dispute resolution practices and safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

IX. Full and effective participation

45. Indigenous peoples and local communities should be accorded the right to full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation in all decision-making processes that may affect their rights, lands, territories, waters and resources.

46. The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities should be ensured throughout the development, planning, implementation and monitoring of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation and ecosystem restoration measures, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments that affect them.

X. Enabling conditions

A. Capacity-building

47. The capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant government institutions and the private sector to implement the present guidelines should be strengthened. Capacity-building efforts should be culturally sensitive and include training for public authorities, stakeholders and the private sector to apply relevant legislation and policies respectfully and effectively.

48. Opportunities for training, technical cooperation and legal support, including, where possible, in indigenous languages, should be created and promoted through the development of appropriate materials and tools to allow for the sharing of experiences related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments among indigenous peoples and local communities.

B. Awareness-raising

49. Awareness should be raised among government institutions, civil society, the private sector and the general public of the roles, contributions, rights and knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation and ecosystem restoration.

C. Sustainable, inclusive and accessible financial mechanisms

50. Adequate sustainable and accessible financial support should be provided or strengthened for the design, implementation and monitoring of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ecosystem restoration measures, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments led by or involving indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with decisions [16/4](#) and [16/34](#).

51. Direct funding programmes should be developed, established or strengthened, as appropriate, in coordination with Parties, consistent with national legislation and circumstances, to support restoration and conservation efforts, spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments led by indigenous peoples and local communities within their lands, territories and waters with their full and effective participation, in line with decisions [16/4](#) and [16/34](#).

D. Monitoring and reporting

52. The development of monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including the use of biocultural community protocols, should be supported.

53. Quantitative and qualitative indicators, including biocultural and traditional knowledge indicators, and community-based monitoring and information systems should be promoted, strengthened and, where appropriate, operationalized, taking into account national circumstances, without creating additional reporting burdens, to measure the effectiveness of conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts led by or involving indigenous peoples and local communities, including for headline indicator 22.1 of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global

Biodiversity Framework on land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities.⁹⁸

54. The need to ensure and enhance the transparency and inclusivity of community-based monitoring and information systems and to fully engage indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, in the management of those systems, including by promoting and implementing community-based monitoring and information systems in developing countries, should be acknowledged, and the importance of enhanced international cooperation to address the technical, financial, technological and capacity constraints that undermine the capacity of developing countries to support community-based monitoring and information systems should be highlighted.

55. National information systems on indigenous and traditional territories, at all levels, should be created and maintained, in accordance with national circumstances, legislation and priorities, to monitor progress in the recognition and governance of those territories. The systems must ensure data sovereignty for those groups, with their free, prior and informed consent.

56. Information on the implementation of commitments related to indigenous and traditional territories, and the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to conservation and ecosystem restoration, should be integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national restoration plans and national reports produced under the Convention.

E. Access to information

57. Indigenous peoples and local communities should have timely and culturally appropriate access to information related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ecosystem restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments. Access includes the translation of relevant materials into the languages of indigenous peoples and local communities,[as appropriate,] as well as the use of culturally appropriate formats to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them.

F. Technical cooperation and legal support

58. Technical, scientific and legal support should be provided to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to undertake community mapping and monitoring related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ecosystem restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

59. Legal support should be provided, as appropriate, in line with national circumstances, to enhance awareness of the collective land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, and their right to a traditional lifestyle and to assist indigenous peoples and local communities with processes related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ecosystem restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

⁹⁸ See decision [16/31](#).

Item 10 (b) (ii)

Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities: implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030: process to review and update the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention (Task 5.4)

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [1/4](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Process to review and update the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Task 5.4 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁹⁹ related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030,¹⁰⁰

1. *Decides* to endorse the process for reviewing and updating the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁰¹ as outlined in annex I to the present decision;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene, subject to the availability of resource, an ad hoc technical expert group on the review and update of the voluntary glossary, with the terms of reference set out in annex II to the present decision, and to submit the results of the expert group's work to the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, for consideration at its second meeting;
3. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to make a recommendation for updating the voluntary glossary on the basis of the outcome of the review, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.

Annex I

Process for reviewing and updating the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The process for reviewing and updating the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity^{102,103} shall be as follows:

⁹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁰⁰ Decision [16/4](#), annex.

¹⁰¹ Decision [14/13](#), annex.

¹⁰² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁰³ Decision [14/13](#), annex.

Step 1. The Executive Secretary shall invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders to submit views and experiences on possible elements of the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention that should be reviewed or updated, and invite relevant Parties, in line with national legislation and circumstances, to include the views and experiences of people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, in their submissions.

Step 2. The Executive Secretary shall prepare a synthesis of the views received.

Step 3. The Executive Secretary shall convene an ad hoc technical expert group on the review and update of the voluntary glossary, which shall review the synthesis of the views received and formulate technical advice and proposals on which elements of the glossary should be updated. [The process should ensure that any revised definitions reflect the diversity of legal and cultural contexts across Parties and allow for national adaptation.]

Step 4. The Executive Secretary shall make available the technical advice and proposals formulated by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review and Update of the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for peer review, and also make the technical advice, proposals and results of the peer review available as an information document to the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at its second meeting.

Step 5. The Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities shall consider at its second meeting the advice and proposals formulated by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group and prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.

Annex II

Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review and Update of the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review and Update of the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity shall:

(a) Review the synthesis of the views received and formulate advice and proposals on which elements of the voluntary glossary should be updated in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;¹⁰⁴

(b) Submit reviewed and updated elements of the voluntary glossary for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at its second meeting.

[2. alt.1 The Expert Group shall be composed of 35 experts, as follows:

(a) Fourteen experts from indigenous peoples and local communities, representing the seven sociocultural regions recognized by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (two per region), nominated and selected through an agreed process;

(b) Fifteen experts from Parties, representing the five United Nations regional groups (three per group);

(c) Six experts nominated by relevant stakeholders.]

¹⁰⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

[2. alt.2 The Expert Group shall be composed of 29 experts, as follows:

- (a) Fifteen experts from Parties, representing the five United Nations regional groups (three per group);
- (b) Ten experts from indigenous peoples and local communities, representing the five United Nations regional groups (two per group);
- (c) Four experts nominated by relevant stakeholders.]

[2. alt.3 The Expert Group shall be composed of 14 experts, as follows:

- (a) Seven experts from indigenous peoples and local communities, representing the seven sociocultural regions recognized by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (one per region), nominated by their own procedures;
- (b) Five experts from Parties, representing the five United Nations regional groups (one per group);
- (c) Two experts nominated by relevant stakeholders.]

3. The Co-Chairs of the Subsidiary Body will be invited to participate, ex officio, in meetings of the Technical Expert Group.

4. Experts shall be selected taking into consideration relevant expertise, including on gender perspective, gender balance and geographical distribution, ensuring a diversity of knowledge systems, including traditional knowledge and relevant policy development.

Item 10 (c)**Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities: in-depth dialogue on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [1/1](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

In-depth dialogue on thematic and cross-cutting issues under Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision [16/34](#) of 27 February 2025,

Noting that, at its first meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁰⁵ Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities held an in-depth dialogue on the theme “Strategies for mobilizing resources to ensure the availability of and access to financial resources and funding, as well as other means of implementation, including capacity-building, development and technical support for indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth, to support the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”,¹⁰⁶

Noting also that element 8 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030¹⁰⁷ is aimed at promoting the implementation of the relevant targets of the Framework, in particular by supporting access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of national policies, plans, projects, programmes or systems, as appropriate,

Stressing that the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities should follow [approaches][a human rights-based approach,] in line with section C of the Framework [and in accordance with national legislation [and international instruments]],

1. *Encourages Parties, and invites other relevant actors, considering specific challenges faced by developing countries, to take into account the outcomes of the in-depth dialogue held at the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:*

(a) *To consider establishing or strengthening, in line with element 8 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, mechanisms and strategies for the mobilization of adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources from all sources for indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, youth and persons with disabilities among them;*

(b) *To support and strengthen the self-determined priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities, identify gaps, promote good practices and further explore options for the development*

¹⁰⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁰⁶ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁰⁷ Decision [16/4](#), annex.

or improvement of policies, mechanisms and other appropriate initiatives and measures to achieve the targets of the Framework;

2. *Invites* funding providers and initiatives:

(a) To support the identification and implementation of finance solutions that enhance the mobilization of resources to support indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) To consider establishing or enhancing simplified procedures and dedicated funding windows to facilitate direct access by indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, youth and persons with disabilities among them, in a transparent, fair, accountable and equitable manner, taking into account the needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation;

3. *Decides* that the next in-depth dialogue shall address Task 7.1 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities in accordance with the Framework and that its theme shall be “Development of guidelines, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations bodies, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, to contribute to the enhancement of the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with a human right-based approach, consistent with relevant international obligations and instruments”.

Item 10 (d)

Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities: recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [1/6](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

[The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the note by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁰⁸ on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,¹⁰⁹

Noting that there are divergent views among Parties with regard to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations emanating from the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to inform the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of developments of mutual interest and to provide information to the Forum about activities undertaken under the Convention that are related to the aforementioned recommendations of the Forum.]

¹⁰⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁰⁹ [CBD/SB8J/1/7](#).

Item 11

Digital sequence information on genetic resources

The following draft decision comes from recommendation 7/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and documents [CBD/COP/17/6](#) and [CBD/COP/17/6/Add.2](#). The preamble, paragraphs 2 to 4 and 28 to 41 and annex III come from the draft decision contained in recommendation 7/4. Paragraphs 1, 5 to 27 and annex I come from section I of document CBD/COP/17/6. Annex II comes from section II of document [CBD/COP/17/6/Add.2](#).

Digital sequence information on genetic resources

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [15/9](#) of 19 December 2022, in particular its paragraph 13, and [16/2](#) of 1 November 2024,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to the European Union for their generous financial support for the activities linked with the operationalization of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund, and to the Governments of Germany and South Africa for hosting the second and third meetings of the Steering Committee, respectively;

I

Potential additional modalities of the Mechanism

[2. *Recognizes* the potential value of exploring proportionate pathways that could complement the sectoral approach established in decision [16/2](#) by addressing potential asymmetries affecting users making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, in particular in developing countries, the remaining portfolios of which comply with applicable national access and benefit-sharing requirements, if applicable, [and without prejudice to obligations arising from existing national access and benefit-sharing frameworks,] and mutually agreed terms, while avoiding unintended barriers to the responsible adoption and use of digital sequence information;]

[2.Alt. *Recognizes* the asymmetries among users, including those making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and the potential value of exploring proportionate pathways that could complement the sectoral approach established in decision [16/2](#);]

[3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to [commission a study][compile relevant information] on potential additional modalities [to explore potential contribution pathways, including][, including a proportionate pathway for entities making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources] to enable entities to calculate their contributions to the Cali Fund on the basis of the products or services [in their portfolios developed [directly or indirectly]] using digital sequence information on genetic resources within the scope of the Multilateral Mechanism[, including their potential interaction with national access and benefit-sharing frameworks], and to analyse and evaluate the feasibility, practicality, efficiency and legal and technical challenges of contribution pathways, including [their potential interaction with national access and benefit-sharing frameworks,][their interaction with national access and benefit-sharing frameworks, their implications for the overall contributor base and predictability of contributions and revenue generation for the Cali Fund,] [an assessment of the potential impact of the total level of contributions to the Cali Fund,] [equity implications, and the

interests of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition];]

[3.Alt. *Establishes*, subject to the availability of resources, [an ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources] to further develop the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, through [options for] a products- and services-based modality providing a proportionate pathway for companies with limited use of digital sequence information, complementary to the sectoral approach, according to the terms of reference contained in annex [X], and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighteenth meeting;]

[4. *Decides* to consider, at its [eighteenth][nineteenth] meeting, without prejudging the outcome of the first review of the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and in the light of the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the first review of effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, the potential additional modalities referred to in paragraph 3;]

II

Cali Fund thresholds and contribution rates

5. *Recognizes* that thresholds vary by jurisdiction, owing to national circumstances, and affirms that entities classified as small or medium-sized enterprises in their national jurisdiction are not expected to contribute to the Cali Fund but are encouraged to do so;

6. *Reaffirms* the expected contribution rates of 1 per cent of the profits or 0.1 per cent of the revenue of private entities, as indicative rates;

7. *Urges* private entities reliant on publicly available digital sequence information on genetic resources to share the benefits arising from its use by contributing to the Cali Fund;

8. *Reaffirms* that a contribution at the level of paragraph 6 above will entitle entities to a Cali Fund certificate;

9. *Reminds* Parties and other Governments, in the light of the importance of incentivization shown in the study on contribution rates, thresholds and competitiveness, to take administrative, policy or legislative measures, as appropriate within the national context, to incentivize users under their jurisdiction to contribute to the global fund in line with the modalities of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to commission a study on the scope and definition of the term “direct and indirect use of digital sequence information on genetic resources” in the context of the operationalization of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, in particular for private sector activities, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider the outcomes of the work described in paragraph 10 above at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting on the scope and definition of the term “direct and indirect use of digital sequence information on genetic resources” in the context of the operationalization of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, in particular for private sector activities;

III

Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund;¹¹⁰

13. *Approves* rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, on members and alternates, as contained in annex I;

14. *Welcomes* the work of the Steering Committee on a structured approach to implementation activities, and invites it to continue its work, generate evidence for the first review of the Multilateral Mechanism, including results, conclusions and lessons learned from the structured approach, and include the outcomes in the report and advice of the Steering Committee for the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To commission a study, under the guidance of the Steering Committee, on current non-monetary benefit-sharing by all users of digital sequence information on genetic resources in order to identify, inter alia: capacity gaps in accessing, using and generating such digital sequence information; pathways for the self-assessment of capacity needs; methods to monitor and report non-monetary benefits; examples of the successful delivery of targeted non-monetary benefits, including through the network of regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres; the ways in which non-monetary benefit contributions from the Multilateral Mechanism can be integrated into reporting as part of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; the clearing house for the Multilateral Mechanism provided for in paragraph 8 of the annex to decision [16/2](#); and recommendations for the Steering Committee for further operationalization;

(b) To provide the Steering Committee with the outcome of the work described in subparagraph 15 (a) above for its information and so that it may take it into account, inter alia, in its report for the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

IV

Certificate

16. *Recognizes* that Cali Fund certificates are an important means to encourage users to contribute to the global fund in line with the modalities of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;

17. *Welcomes* the work of the Steering Committee on certificates, in particular in relation to paragraphs 15 and 26 of the annex to decision [16/2](#), and invites the Committee to further work on the topic, with the support of its Secretariat, focussing on the issuance, legal effect and scope of the certificates, taking into account the criteria in paragraphs 9 and 10 of decision [15/9](#);

18. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties, in accordance with their national laws, to put in place urgently the enabling conditions necessary to ensure long-term, stable and predictable monetary benefit-sharing, including by recognizing that a holder of a Cali Fund certificate will not be expected to share further monetary benefits from the use of such information within the scope of the Multilateral Mechanism for the year to which the certificate relates;

19. *Invites* Parties to provide inputs to the interim Secretariat of the Multilateral Mechanism on the characteristics and elements that a Cali Fund certificate would need to operationalize paragraph 15 of the annex to decision [16/2](#), and the processes, if any, that would need to be

¹¹⁰ [CBD/COP/17/6/Add.1](#).

undertaken at the national level to recognize or give legal effect to such certificates, taking into account any relevant national legislation;

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the information submitted pursuant to paragraph 19 above and provide it to the Steering Committee for its information and so that it may take it into account, inter alia, in its report for the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

V

Allocation methodology

21. *Welcomes with appreciation* the outcomes of the work of the of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology on the disbursement of funds from the Cali Fund;¹¹¹

22. *Takes note* of the design principles for the allocation formula and its future revisions, namely, equity, fairness and impact; efficiency; transparency and confidence; and scalability and longevity;

23. *Adopts* the allocation methodology for disbursing funds from the Cali Fund, as contained in annex II, for calculating allocations to Governments;

24. *Also adopts*, on an interim basis, following the recommendation of the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, the same methodology for calculating allocations to indigenous peoples and local communities;

25. *Invites* the Steering Committee:

(a) To keep abreast of new or updated data, in particular those used as indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹¹² for the purpose of applying the allocation methodology;

(b) To continue its work on refining the methodology for the purpose of calculating allocations to indigenous peoples and local communities;

(c) To include in its report for the eighteenth meeting the Conference of the Parties information on its work related to subparagraphs 25 (a) and (b) above;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to commission a report on the potential sources of data for an indicator for criterion (b) of the allocation methodology of the Cali Fund, on the geographical origin of the genetic resources from which digital sequence information on genetic resources in the database was derived, or its best equivalent, as well as the custodian of the indicator, with a view to using the indicator in the allocation methodology, taking into consideration the potential links with other criteria in the formula, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

27. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider the outcomes of the work described in paragraph 26 above at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to recommend to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting options for data sources for criterion (b) of the allocation methodology;

VI

Matters related to the governance of the Mechanism

[28. *Reaffirms* that the governance, institutional arrangements and operational modalities of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, remain under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, and requests the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to review their consistency with

¹¹¹ [CBD/COP/17/6/Add.2](#).

¹¹² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

decision [16/2](#) and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties periodically, and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties;]

[29. *Decides* that future members of the Steering Committee shall be nominated by the respective regional groups and constituencies;

30. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the nomination process related to paragraph 29 above accordingly;]

VII

Review methodology

[

31. [*Adopts the*][*Takes note of the proposed*] review methodology contained in the annex to the present decision;

32. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Steering Committee, in line with the review methodology and subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Develop and disseminate a survey available in all official languages of the United Nations to collect relevant data and information from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders and organizations, including the scientific community, database managers and the private sector, in order to inform the first review of the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and the development of surveys for future reviews;

(b) Commission a review report containing: (a) an analysis of data and information submitted pursuant to subparagraph 32 (a) above that is in line with the pillars and governance assessment of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, information from the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and other readily available sources, as relevant; and (b) recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;

(c) Submit the review report to the Steering Committee to give it the opportunity to share its views and give any recommendations that it may have thereon, and submit the report and the recommendations of the Committee to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

33. *Invites* the actors concerned to respond to the survey mentioned in subparagraph 32 (a) above;

34. *Requests* that, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation review the views and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the review report, if any, and, as relevant, submit a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.

]

VIII

Support for the operationalization of the Mechanism

35. [*Urges*][*Calls upon*] Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, to organize participatory activities and partnerships, as appropriate, in order to encourage private sector engagement with and contributions to the Cali Fund and non-monetary benefit-sharing [consistent with decision [16/2](#) and without prejudice to applicable national access and benefit-sharing measures];

36. [*Requests*][*Strongly encourages*] Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to support the work of the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism,

including the Cali Fund, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹¹³ acting as the interim Secretariat of the Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, through financial support and [formal and] informal activities, [including capacity-building, technical assistance, awareness-raising and information-sharing,] such as workshops on the operationalization of the Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and related items [and to support the effective participation in the work of the Committee of members from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States among them];

IX

Data availability and accessibility

37. *Invites*, with the aim to make digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available and accessible in a transparent and accountable manner [, consistent with the sovereign rights of all Parties over the genetic resources and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities][to all Parties, consistent with the principles of open access to data]:

(a) Indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, [with the support of and, where relevant, in collaboration with, Parties, and, as appropriate, digital sequence information on genetic resources database managers, the scientific community, users of digital sequence information on genetic resources, relevant organizations and initiatives, to support participatory workshops with the aim to develop their self-led educational material][to contribute, in consultation and collaboration with Parties, as appropriate, to the development of educational material under a Party-driven process] for use by database operators, scientific and research institutions, the Secretariat and other stakeholders, as relevant, on the management and governance of data linked with indigenous peoples and local communities, including the women and youth within those communities, and their traditional knowledge, including consideration of and alignment with the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR) and collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE), for, inter alia, providing guidance for scientific publications on research using digital sequence information on genetic resources[, consistent with national legislation and circumstances];

[(b) [Database managers and users to develop and progressively implement][Parties and other Governments funding, sponsoring and hosting digital sequence information on genetic resources databases to ensure that entities operating such databases and users thereof in their jurisdictions take measures to develop and progressively implement, in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision [16/2](#)]:

- (i) [Interoperable and] standardized metadata and good practices that support improved accessibility, transparency and accountability in databases hosting digital sequence information on genetic resources, including, as appropriate, [and where available,] provenance [and country of origin] information [and information on the country of origin of the biological material or genetic resources from which the sequence was derived];
- (ii) Declarations relating to lawful submission of digital sequence information, where applicable[, including reference to relevant information or documentation supporting such declarations, in accordance with national legislation];
- (iii) [Standardized] [fields or metadata for submitters to provide information on] [relevant] [rights and] permissions information, including free, prior and informed consent[, in accordance with national circumstances];
- [(iv) Interoperable metadata standards;]
- (v) Alignment with the CARE and FAIR principles and the principles of transparency, responsibility, user focus, sustainability and technology (TRUST), as well as the

¹¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

recommendations set out in section III of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *Recommendation on Open Science*;

[(b Alt.1) Organizations hosting databases that make digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available to share information with the Executive Secretary by the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning their implementation of paragraph 10 of the annex to decision [16/2](#);

[(b Alt.2) Parties and other Governments funding, sponsoring or hosting sequence databases to share information on the actions that they have taken to make sure that entities operating [such][those] databases [ensure the effective implementation of the Multilateral Mechanism and that users in their jurisdictions take measures to develop and] progressively implement paragraphs 11 and 12 of the annex to decision [16/2](#);

[(c) The exploration of practical approaches for improving [accountability and] transparency to all Parties regarding the submission and use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, while maintaining open access and taking into account existing database practices [and applicable national legislation and measures];]

[38. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations and stakeholders in a position to do so to provide capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer[, voluntary and mutually agreed terms] and financial support for the work outlined in subparagraphs 37 (a) and (b) above;]

39. *Invites* the various actors referred to in paragraph 37 above to inform the Secretariat of relevant work undertaken and its results;

[40. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to ensure that the findings and recommendations arising from the study on tools and models, such as databases, for making digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available and accessible in a transparent and accountable manner¹¹⁴ are subject to peer review, allowing Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, database operators and relevant experts to provide comments, and to submit the finalized study and recommendation for review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting, [before informing future policy development];]

41. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To collect the information mentioned in paragraph 39 above and disseminate it through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House;

(b) To issue a call for collaboration with other platforms and clearing houses outside the Convention and its Protocols on the dissemination of that information;

Annex I

Rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund, on members and alternates

1. After the initial two-year terms, members, observers and alternates will serve for a period of four years, this being a full term. Following the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Five members from Parties, 1 from each region, will be selected to serve for half a term, and 10 members from Parties will be selected to serve for a full term;

¹¹⁴ [CBD/SBI/7/INF/15](#).

(b) Three members from indigenous peoples and local communities will be selected to serve for half a term, and four members from indigenous peoples and local communities will be selected to serve for a full term;

(c) Three observers, one from each category set out in paragraph 5 (b) of enclosure IV of the annex to decision [16/2](#) of 1 November 2024 will be selected to serve for half a term, and three observers will be selected to serve for a full term. Each time thereafter, members and observers will be selected to serve for a full term.

2. Terms will begin on 1 April of the year following an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and end on 31 March two or four years thereafter, as applicable.

3. When a member, observer or alternate is unable to complete the assigned term, a representative from the same Party or group shall be put forward as a potential replacement for that member, observer or alternate for the remainder of the term. This replacement candidate will be considered in consultation with his or her regional group or organization, as appropriate, and may be selected by it as a replacement or alternate, taking into account gender balance and relevant technical expertise of the candidate.

4. No member, observer or alternate may serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Annex II

Allocation methodology for disbursing funds from the Cali Fund

I. Allocation methodology

1. The present allocation methodology takes into consideration the design principles as agreed upon by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology¹¹⁵ and the criteria provided by the Conference of the Parties. Considering the context of the establishment of the Cali Fund and its goals, the Expert Group decided to add a fourth criterion to recognize the contribution of traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples and local communities to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The strongest consideration was given to the goals of the Cali Fund as well as to the availability of data when building the methodology.

2. Where appropriate, and subject to national circumstances, at least half of the funding of the Cali Fund should support the self-identified needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, as stated in paragraph 21 of the annex to decision [16/2](#). The present allocation methodology was built with the consideration of paragraph 20 of the annex to decision [16/2](#) relating to allocations to Parties, but with the flexibility to be considered for a more extended application, as applicable.

3. The formula is as follows:

$$B + w1 * C_A + w2 * C_B + w3 * C_C + w4 * C_D^{116}$$

4. The equality base, or B, is to be applied as a first step in the calculation of the allocation. The calculation of the equality base or B is dependent on the option chosen for the data set for criterion (c), as explained below. After the equality base calculation, the below data sets are applied with equal weightings. The two amounts for each half are then added together to form each recipient country's allocation.

5. The data sets for the criteria are as follows:

¹¹⁵ [CBD/COP/17/6/Add.2](#), annex, sect. I.

¹¹⁶ Where B = equality base, w1 = weight one, C_A = criterion (a) on biodiversity richness and other biodiversity-related criteria, w2 = weight two, C_B = criterion (b) on the geographic origin of the genetic resources, w3 = weight three, C_C = criterion (c) on capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, w4 = weight four, and C_D = criterion (d) on measures related to traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples and local communities.

(a) Criterion (a): the Benefits Index for Biodiversity of the Global Environment Facility (data from the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, at the global level);

(b) Criterion (b): currently null and included as a placeholder until such time as data become applicable. The formula will then be adjusted to maintain equal weighting;

(c) Criterion (c): [normalized, inverted gross national income per capita, with the base allocation considering a corrective measure for least developed countries and small island developing States;][the inverted United Nations scale of assessments formula using a banded approach as set out in a working paper¹¹⁷ and as presented in table 1;]

Table 1

Six-band configuration from the inverted United Nations scale of assessments formula

<i>Band</i>	<i>United Nations assessed share range (percentage)</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Ratio to band 1</i>
1	≤ 0.001	1.50	1.00
2	0.001–0.010	1.30	0.87
3	0.01–0.100	1.10	0.73
4	0.1–1.000	0.95	0.63
5	1.0–10.000	0.75	0.50
6	> 10.000	0.40	0.27

(d) The approach for the equality base is as follows: [if the methodology uses normalized, inverted gross national income per capita, then the equality base has a specific consideration for small island developing States and least developed countries. Using the gross national income for criterion (c) yields results that are biased against least developed countries and small island developing States, and thus a correction factor is introduced into the calculation of the equality base. For this calculation, the equality base calculation is split into two: B = half of the funds available are split equally among all recipient country Parties, as standard. Then, least developed countries and small island developing States are given 25 per cent additional value of this base value;¹¹⁸][if the methodology uses the inverted scale of assessments formula, the total amount of funds available is to be divided in half, and the first half of the funds is to be divided equally among all recipient country Parties, representing the equality base or B = half of the funds available/total number of recipient country Parties.¹¹⁹]

6. After the equality base is calculated, the remainder of the funds are subjected to the rest of the formula. The two amounts for each part are then added together to form each recipient country's allocation:

(a) Criterion (d):¹²⁰ indicator 21.CT.3 (data underlying the Index of Linguistic Diversity); equal weightings will be applied to all criteria;

¹¹⁷ Paul Oldham, "Inverted UN scale of assessments formula (IUSAF): working paper on option A", 7 May 2026. Available at <https://ssrn.com/abstract=6809586>.

¹¹⁸ Or $B = F/2 (N+0.25M)$, where F is the total funds available, N is the total number of recipient country Parties and M is least developed countries and small island developing States.

¹¹⁹ Or $B = F/2N$, where F is the total funds available and N is the total number of recipient country Parties.

¹²⁰ Indicators 22.1, on land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities; 9.2, on the percentage of the population in traditional occupations; and 22.b, on the participation and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making, are currently placeholders and their source data will be included as they become available. All subcomponents are weighted equally.

(b) The result of the formula, added to the equality base allocation, is considered the total allocation for each recipient country Party, as illustrated in table 2;

7. The results of both options in the model¹²¹ are illustrated in table 2.

Table 2

Results of the formula for a level of funds to Governments of \$200 million, using option 1 or option 2 for criterion (c), with criteria (a), (b) and (c) being equal

Country ^a	Characteristic	Formula with option 1 ^b		Formula with option 2 ^b	
		United States dollars	Percentage	United States dollars	Percentage
Country A	High income/high biodiversity	3 172 049	1.59	1 743 925	0.87
Country B	High income/low biodiversity	873 850	0.44	1 119 371	0.56
Country C	Medium income/high biodiversity	2 526 282	1.26	1 663 419	0.83
Country D	Medium income/low biodiversity	1 042 737	0.52	1 317 650	0.66
Country E	Low income/high biodiversity	2 735 509	1.37	1 667 462	0.83
Country F	Low income/low biodiversity	1 666 411	0.83	1 379 423	0.69

^a In order to visualize the outcomes of the formulas considered for a direct allocation to country Parties, taking into account the overall hypothetical amount of \$200 million, synthetic countries were created as an average of five real countries fitting the characteristics as outlined in column two.

^b The results are shown as absolute value in United States dollars and as a percentage of the total funds available.

8. Recommendations for further work are contained in section III of document [CBD/COP/17/6/Add.2](#).

[Annex III

Review methodology of the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund

I. Conceptual framework of the review methodology

1. For the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund, to succeed, five enabling conditions (EC1–EC5) must be in place in the ecosystem in which the Mechanism operates. They are treated as structural preconditions: failures in enabling conditions require different policy responses than failures in mechanism design. The five conditions are:

- (a) Industry clarity on contribution conditions (EC1);
- (b) A commercially viable business case for industry and Parties (EC2);
- (c) Legal certainty for contributors and providers (EC3);
- (d) Functional identified or designated receiving entities (EC4);
- (e) Effective governance with sustained political commitment (EC5).

¹²¹ The options referred to here are the two alternatives proposed in subparagraphs 5 (c) and (d), and the final wording of paragraph 7 and of table 2 will depend on the option chosen by the Conference of the Parties.

2. The Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, is assessed in the review through six evaluation pillars (P1–P6) and a governance assessment (G1). P1 covers [resource mobilization][monetary contributions] and distribution; P2 covers contribution levels, trigger design, efficiency and administrative costs; P3 covers non-monetary benefits, [including open access to digital sequence information on genetic resources][in particular benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources]; P4 cover the Mechanism’s coherence with other mechanisms, including contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹²² and complementarity with national and international access and benefit-sharing frameworks; and P5 covers the rights [of][, open access obligations and research impacts relating to][and obligations in relation to open access of] indigenous peoples and local communities [and the impact of the utilization of digital sequence information derived from genetic resources]. Under G1, the Mechanism’s governance is assessed against [six][seven] indicators: decision-making inclusivity, transparency, management response quality, institutional coherence, fiduciary integrity, [and] governance set-up progress [and improvements in data governance, including consistency with the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR), collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE) and transparency, responsibility, user focus, sustainability and technology (TRUST), as well as the recommendations set out in section III of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *Recommendation on Open Science*].

3. The following four assumptions reflect the design of the Mechanism as established by decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The evaluation works within their constraints.

Assumption 1 – [Decoupling from traceability (decision 15/9, para. 5)][Monetary payments are calculated for the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources in accordance with the scope of the Multilateral Mechanism]

4. [The Mechanism does not require proof that specific digital sequence information on genetic resources was used by a specific contributor.] Also, all rights under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization¹²³ and other instruments are preserved (decision 15/9, para. 11; decision 16/2, para. 27). The assessment is focused on whether the Mechanism generates intended [monetary] flows and [whether] outcomes at the system level [are consistent with decision 16/2][, and not on whether individual contributions are traceable to specific uses].

Assumption 2 – The sectors contribute to the Multilateral Mechanism because they are reliant on digital sequence information on genetic resources

5. The Mechanism establishes sectors in which it is plausible that economic activity is reliant on the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources. This contribution-plausibility framework is the principal analytical method for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 findings. The approach for the present review methodology was aligned with that of comparable mechanisms: the three-level assessment structure and evaluability-update-first approach from the Green Climate Fund; the financial reporting and tiered data-access model from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; and the equity and non-monetary benefit assessment from the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The rating scale and compliance-based logic of the Green Climate Fund project logframes are incompatible with the voluntary design of the Cali Fund, and so only the three-level assessment structure (performance, design and operation) and the evaluability-update-first approach were deemed applicable to the present methodology. The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction¹²⁴ and the WHO Pandemic Agreement, in particular article 12,

¹²² Decision 15/4, annex.

¹²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

¹²⁴ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

on pathogen access and benefit-sharing system, are relevant as boundary instruments for the part of Pillar 4 on coherence with other international instruments and contribution stacking risk, but currently do not have applicable evaluation methodologies.

Assumption 3 – Since the enabling conditions enumerated in paragraph 1 are structural preconditions and not mechanism failures, even a well-designed mechanism will underperform if enabling conditions are absent

6. Each condition represents a distinct failure mode requiring a different policy response, and the number of Parties implementing paragraph 13¹²⁵ of the annex to decision [16/2](#) measured by the time of the review by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting [is][, as well as actions taken by database managers to promote accountability and transparency in making digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly accessible and available are] the most important leading signal[s] for the first review. The review therefore must first establish which enabling conditions were in place when the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, operated. If enabling conditions fall short, low performance will not signal a design flaw requiring the Conference of the Parties to change the Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, but rather a precondition failure or shortcoming requiring diplomatic, legal or capacity-building responses. The evaluability update must therefore include an enabling-condition diagnostic before any pillar findings are presented. The Secretariat should develop:

(a) A survey to gather data for EC1 and EC2 on industry clarity on contribution conditions and on a commercially viable business case for both industry and Parties, respectively;

(b) A tracker tool for the countries that put in place administrative, policy or legislative measures to incentivize users' contributions;

[(c) A tracker tool for actions taken by countries, not just to incentivize users' contributions, but also to ensure that digital sequence information on genetic resources to which the databases facilitate access is compliant with national laws of provider countries;]

(d) [A protocol to address the risk of contribution stacking][An assessment of whether there are any risks of stacking of obligations];

(e) An assessment for EC4 on the designation and readiness of institutions to receive contributions for indigenous peoples and local communities[, including whether operational arrangements enable access through the full range of funding pathways, including direct access];

[(f) A tracker tool for the actions taken by database managers to promote EC6;]

(g) Qualitative protocols for EC5 on effective governance with sustained political commitment.

Assumption 4 – The methodology is modular in order to respond to a phased operationalization

7. The methodology is adopted before the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, is fully operational. The allocation formula, contribution thresholds, database interface measures and governance structures are still being finalized, some of which will be presented by the Steering Committee to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. The methodology is therefore modular: elements for which evaluability depends on a finalized design feature are classified as modality-contingent and flagged as “not yet evaluable”.

¹²⁵ “13. Parties and non-Parties are invited to take administrative, policy or legislative measures, consistent with national legislation, to incentivize users in their jurisdiction to contribute to the global fund in line with the modalities of the multilateral mechanism.”

8. [Two][Three] limitations are assumed in the present methodology, given that they cannot be remedied by improved data collection:

(a) Attribution[: outcomes cannot be attributed to specific digital sequence information on genetic resources, contributors or countries of origin (decision [15/9](#), para. 5), and the review cannot satisfy demands for bilateral origin-benefit linkages][: information on attribution of specific digital sequence information on genetic resources is limited to the declarations by the contributors, and verification of the same is not possible until improvements are made to the accountability and transparency associated with databases and other tools used to make digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly accessible];

[(b) Political questions: whether the trigger, thresholds or allocation formula are fair in an absolute sense is a political question for the Parties. The review provides an assessment of only performance against the criteria in paragraph 9 of decision [15/9](#);]

(c) Party requests: The allocation formula, thresholds and rates of contribution are set through separate processes decided by the Parties. The review provides an assessment of only whether adopted rates are generating the intended flows and whether thresholds appear to be a barrier to uptake (EC2).

II. Review framework

9. Table 1 contains elements that are either fully or conditionally evaluable at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Elements marked † are conditional on specific decisions reached or actions taken at, or immediately following, the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, such as the adoption of the allocation formula and the manual of operations, and the launch of a survey or tracker. Table 2 contains elements that are not evaluable at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties regardless of the outcomes of the seventeenth meeting, primarily because operational conditions or external instruments are not in place.

Table 1

Consolidated review framework: elements fully or conditionally evaluable at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P1 – Monetary contribution and distribution [and governance]			
Contributions are received from the users of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including those identified by the Parties (decision 16/2 , enclosure I)	Existing (MPTFO)	MPTFO financial report ¹ [cost and administrative burden where sufficient data are available]	Fully evaluable; feeds KMGBF Target 13 indicators
Total contributions received ([volume][amount], number, sector[, including vis-à-vis indicative rates in decision 16/2])			
Distribution by region and recipient type †	Existing (MPTFO) – formula modality-contingent	MPTFO allocation data	Basic distributional data evaluable now; full evaluation is conditional on adoption of the allocation formula at COP-17 [feeds KMGBF Target 13 indicators]
Disbursement rate	Existing (MPTFO)	MPTFO financial report	Fully evaluable
Allocation process compliance (including transparency, accountability and gender-responsiveness)	Existing (Fund Secretariat)	Secretariat narrative report ¹	Fully evaluable
Governance set-up progress – G1.vi (leading element) (see G1 below) †	Existing (Fund Secretariat)	Cali Fund annual report; ¹ report of the Steering Committee to the Conference of the Parties; Steering Committee meeting minutes; manual of operations (once adopted)	Fully evaluable; full evaluation of G1.vi is conditional on adoption of the manual of operations at COP-17

¹ MPTFO financial report + Fund Secretariat narrative report = Cali Fund annual report.

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P2 – [Contribution levels], trigger design, efficiency and costs			
EC1 – contributor awareness, understanding [and clarity] [and] operational effectiveness of contribution conditions † [including the assessment of the effectiveness and suitability of the trigger for monetary contribution as outlined in decision 16/2]	To develop (survey)	Contributor or stakeholder survey; including national reporting on Target 13; [Distinguish between entities that were unaware, that were aware but found conditions uncertain, and that were aware but did not contribute]	Evaluable in survey launched soon after COP-17, complemented by data on actual contributions and contribution patterns; interim results possible before COP-18 Conditional on Secretariat launching survey after COP-17
EC2 – business-case perception of contribution thresholds†	To develop (survey)	Contributor or stakeholder survey, [competent national authority or national focal point for CBD, as appropriate,] complemented by data on entities meeting the threshold, contributing entities and contributions received	Evaluable if survey launched soon after COP-17; interim results possible before COP-18 Conditional on Secretariat launching survey after COP-17, as well as potential effect of COP-17 decision on contribution threshold for participation expectation and contribution level
EC3 – [value proposition and incentive for provider and user, including recognition of certificate]			
P3 – Non-monetary benefits [arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources]			
(whole row bracketed) [Open] access to digital sequence information on genetic resources, [in alignment with the CARE and FAIR principles, as well as the recommendations set out in section III of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science]	Existing (databases)	Database operator voluntary reports	Fully evaluable if reports made available

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
Capacity-building (could be considered for table 2)		[Report of the technical centres under the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development of CBD]	
Technology transfer			
P4 – Mechanism’s coherence with other mechanisms, including contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and complementarity with national and international access and benefit-sharing frameworks			
EC3 (a) – national incentivization measures (ABS discharge) †	To develop (Party notification)	Party notification on national ABS measures, including digital sequence information on genetic resources; Secretariat tracker (see para. 6)	Evaluable if tracker is launched and Party notification issued immediately after COP-17 Conditional on Secretariat launching tracker and COP-17 authorizing Party notification
[[National measures] [Progress, measures or actions (decision 16/2 , annex, para. 10)] of Parties that fund, sponsor or host databases within national jurisdictions, including on accountability and transparency, in alignment with decision 15/9 and paragraph 11 of the annex to decision 16/2]			
Impact on research and innovation (could be considered for table 2)		Report from databases	
EC3 (c) – provider confidence (national ABS alignment)	To develop (assessment)	Party national reports and PMRR; Party notification	Partially evaluable through Party notification only; results considered interim, given early stage of the Mechanism Monitor in subsequent cycles, including on the perception of a voluntary extension of the mechanism
Coherence with national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national	Existing (CBD Secretariat)	PMRR and Secretariat	Partially evaluable at COP-18 (interim results only, given the early stage of the Mechanism)

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
digital sequence information and ABS measures			Monitor in subsequent cycles
P5 – Rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, [open access and research impacts] [and the impact of utilization of digital sequence information on genetic resources on them]			
<i>All elements</i>	—	—	<i>No P5 elements evaluable at COP-18 All P5 elements are shown in table 2</i>
G1 – Governance assessment			
G1.i – Decision-making inclusivity †	Interim (Secretariat)	SC meeting minutes; manual of operations (once adopted)	Fully evaluable; manual of operations (if adopted at COP-17) adds allocation formula governance
G1.ii – Transparency and timeliness of documentation	Interim (Secretariat)	Secretariat periodic report, [including timely availability of decisions, meeting documents and relevant financial documents]	Fully evaluable
G1.iii – Quality of management response †	Existing (SC)	SC management response; manual of operations (once adopted)	Fully evaluable from COP-18; manual of operations (if adopted at COP-17) adds allocation governance
G1.iv – Institutional coherence (among SC, Fund Secretariat and MPTFO)	Existing (Fund Secretariat)	Secretariat periodic report [, including clarity of mandates, roles and responsibilities of SC and MPTFO]	Fully evaluable
G1.v – Fiduciary and financial integrity	Existing (MPTFO)	MPTFO annual report; MPTFO processes	Fully evaluable
G1.vi – Governance [effectiveness and accountability][set-up progress] [(most important leading element)] †	Existing (Secretariat)	SC meeting minutes; Cali Fund annual reports;	Fully evaluable; if the manual of operations is adopted at COP-17, governance set-up evaluable in full

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
		manual of operations (once adopted)	
EC1–EC5 – Enabling-condition diagnostic (cross-cutting summary)			
EC1 – Industry clarity (see P2 above)	To develop (survey)	Contributor or stakeholder survey	See P2 above †
EC2 – Business case fit for both users and providers (see P2 above)	To develop (survey)	Contributor or stakeholder survey	See P2 above †
EC3 – Legal certainty (see P4 above and table 2)	See P4 in table 2	See P4 in table 2	EC3(a) and (c) see P4 above; EC3(b) see table 2
EC4 – Institutional readiness of indigenous peoples and local communities (see table 2)	To develop (assessment)	Consultation of indigenous peoples and local communities; Party reports	See table 2
EC5 – Governance quality (see G1 above)	Existing (qualitative)	Secretariat; SC meeting minutes	See G1 above
<i>Colour coding:</i> green = existing data available; amber = data to be developed, instrument not yet in place or evaluation conditional on a COP-17 decision; grey = cross-reference rows. <i>Abbreviations:</i> ABS, access and benefit-sharing; CARE, collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics; CBD, Convention on Biological Diversity; COP, Conference of the Parties; EC, enabling condition; FAIR, findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable; G, governance assessment; KMGBF, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; MPTFO, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office; P, pillar; PMRR, planning, monitoring, reporting and review; SC, Steering Committee; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.			

Table 2

Consolidated review framework: elements not yet evaluable at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P2 – Contribution levels, trigger design, efficiency and costs			
Transaction costs and administrative burden	To develop (study)	SC-commissioned study	Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties; requires dedicated study

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P3 – Non-monetary benefits			
Non-monetary benefit-sharing assessment, as aligned with the Global Biodiversity Fund monitoring framework methodology for indicator C.2 ² Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments	To develop (reporting)	Database operator reports in table 1; contributor or stakeholder survey	Partially evaluable; typology and survey to be developed; with particular consideration of non-monetary benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities fully evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties; [extent includes the total amount and where it goes]
P4 – Mechanism’s coherence with other mechanisms, including contributions to the KMGBF and complementarity with national and international ABS frameworks			
Biodiversity impact of funded activities	To develop	Secretariat; Party reports	Not yet evaluable; qualitative contribution assessment possible at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
Contribution to KMGBF Goal C and Target 13 binary indicator	Not yet evaluable	KMGBF monitoring report and PMRR	Not yet evaluable: no DSI-specific information in KMGBF Goal C or Target 13 at the moment; PMRR does not contain allocation formula data Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Alignment with PMRR reporting cycles	Not yet evaluable	PMRR or Secretariat	Not yet evaluable: PMRR does not yet contain allocation formula data Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties
EC3 (b) – [[contribution][obligation]-stacking risk][interactions and synergies between the operations of the Multilateral Mechanism and other multilateral access and benefit-sharing instruments] (ITPGRFA, BBNJ, WHO PABS)	To develop (protocol)	Secretariat stacking risk protocol	Not yet evaluable: decisions have not yet been made in relation to other international instruments on whether and how to deal with the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources within the scope of the instruments Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties

² www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/C-2

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P5 – Indigenous peoples and local communities’ rights, open access and research impacts			
EC4 – Institutional readiness of indigenous peoples and local communities and entity designation (<i>could be considered for table 1</i>)	To develop (assessment)	Consultation of indigenous peoples and local communities; Party reports	[Partially][Not yet] evaluable: Cali Fund operations not fully started Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Benefits received by indigenous peoples and local communities and their identified or designated entities	Existing or to develop	MPTFO allocation data; consultation of indigenous peoples and local communities	Partially evaluable for factor (j) of enclosure VI and paragraph 21 of the annex to decision 16/2 , through survey or Party notification; results considered interim Monitor in subsequent cycles.
Non-hindrance of research and innovation, including related to new technologies	To develop (study)	SC study; research community consultation	Not yet evaluable: Cali Fund operations not fully started Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties
<i>Abbreviations:</i> ABS, access and benefit-sharing; BBNJ, Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction; COP, Conference of the Parties; DSI, digital sequence information; EC, enabling condition; ITPGRFA, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; KMGBF, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; MPTFO, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office; PMRR, planning, monitoring, reporting and review; Steering Committee; WHO PABS, World Health Organization Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System.			

III. Methodological approach, consultation and quality assurance

10. The Steering Committee will oversee the review. Data for the review are classified under three confidentiality tiers (public, restricted and sensitive) and collected through the following four reporting data sources, as a minimum:

- (a) Annual financial report of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office;
- (b) Annual narrative report of the Fund Secretariat;
- (c) Reporting by Parties on national implementation through a notification;
- (d) Voluntary reporting by database and tool managers on digital sequence information on genetic resources reports, including on alignment with FAIR and CARE principles.

11. In addition, stakeholder consultations, including a structured questionnaire for Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, database operators and contributors, as well as targeted consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities, will generate analytically usable evidence. Draft findings should be circulated [to stakeholders] for comment, and all substantive comments should be recorded.

A. Independence and quality assurance

12. Analytical work is conducted by functionally independent evaluators free from conflicts of interest with the Steering Committee, Secretariat of the Multilateral Mechanism, the Secretariat of the Convention and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

13. In addition, draft findings are subject to peer review.

B. Structure of the report

14. The review report should comprise five sections:

- (a) Executive summary;
- (b) Evaluability update;
- (c) Findings by category of pillar and G1, each presented as:
 - (i) Evidence;
 - (ii) Finding;
 - (iii) Conclusion;
 - (iv) Recommendation;
- (d) Cross-cutting findings;
- (e) Proposed adjustments (major or minor).

15. In addition, the report should contain four annexes for the following: data tables; consultation synthesis; management response; and peer review record.

C. Steering Committee response to the assessment

16. The Steering Committee responds to each recommendation set out in the report through the management response. It accepts, accepts with modifications or declines, with reasons, each recommendation. For every accepted recommendation, [an][a proposed] action plan is provided in which the action, responsible body, timeline and resource implications are specified. Recommendations for major revisions to the Multilateral Mechanism must be brought to the Conference of the Parties for endorsement. A report on the implementation status of the action plans should be presented before the subsequent review cycle.

D. Follow-up to the report

17. Given that the implementation status of the action plan from the previous review should be presented before the subsequent review cycle, recommendations should be recorded either as completed on time, completed late, partially completed or not yet commenced, and be accompanied by an explanation for any delay and a revised timeline, where appropriate. If an action in the plan is not completed and an adequate explanation is not provided, it should be treated as an implementation failure and should be reported in the cross-cutting findings section of the next review report under G1.iii (quality of management response).

18. The management response is a living document: the Steering Committee may update it between cycles to reflect changing circumstances but must report those changes to the Conference of the Parties, along with the associated reasons and consequences.

III. Governance, roles and responsibilities

19. The Conference of the Parties, [once a methodology is adopted,] will review [its][the final] report. The Steering Committee, as the governing body of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, should [have oversight of][drive] the methodology development and data collection and produce the final report. Subsequently, the Steering Committee should prepare a proposed management response. It should be noted that the Committee is itself subject to a governance assessment under G1, which is managed in accordance with section II.A above, on independence and quality assurance.

20. The [Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, currently acting as the interim] Fund Secretariat[,] [drives][supports] the methodology development, prepares submissions, coordinates data collection and compiles the resulting data.

21. The two mandates of the Conference of the Parties and its Secretariat, and of the Steering Committee and its interim Secretariat are distinct, even though some staff might serve both entities. The circularity risk – that the Secretariat both prepares data and assists in interpreting it – is managed through the independence provisions provided in section II.A above. Evaluators must independently verify data supplied by the Secretariat against primary sources, where possible. Any data quality concerns that are raised must be documented in the peer review record (as noted in para. 11 above).

22. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will provide financial records through its public reporting obligations, contribution logs, disbursement data, audit reports and certified financial statements.

23. Parties will submit data as part of the planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Parties will also [be invited to] submit data on administrative, policy or legislative measures and incentivization of users in their jurisdictions. Last, Parties will review draft findings as part of the review process.

24. Indigenous peoples and local communities will be consulted on CARE-compliant data handling, provide evidence on benefits received and review passages with a “sensitive” confidentiality classification.

25. Database operators [should][will be invited to] supply interface measure reports, access statistics and quality assessments of annual provenance data.

26. Last, the private sector contributors [should][will be invited to] provide survey responses and inputs during consultation.

]

Item 12 (a)**Matters relating to support mechanisms for the implementation and awareness of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendations [6/5](#) and [7/9](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The preamble, paragraphs 2 to 6, 14, 15 (a), (b) and (e), 34 (c) and annex I come from recommendation [6/5](#). Paragraphs 1, 7 to 13, 15 (c), (d) and (f) to (i), 16 to 34 (a), (b), (d) and (e) come from recommendation [7/9](#). As requested by the Subsidiary Body in the latter recommendation, the Secretariat has revised the workplan and budget contained in document [CBD/SBI/7/10](#) to produce annex II below.

Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

The Conference of the Parties,

I**Capacity-building and development**

Recalling its decisions [15/8](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/3](#) of 1 November 2024,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation during the intersessional period,

1. *Also takes note of capacity gaps and barriers identified in the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹²⁸ and underscores the urgent need to address those barriers;*

2. *Takes note of the report of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation on its fifth meeting,¹²⁹ noting the limitations encountered by the Group in identifying suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps, in particular for developing countries faced with significant capacity constraints, owing to the limited data available for the analysis of such gaps;*

3. *Reiterates its request to the Informal Advisory Group, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹³⁰ and the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, to identify options to further address the technical, technological and institutional capability gaps identified by Parties, on the basis of the analysis of information contained in: (a) the national biodiversity strategies and action plans; (b) the seventh national reports under the Convention; (c) the fifth national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,¹³¹ (d) the first national reports under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;¹³² (e) the global report of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; (f) relevant outcomes of the midterm review of the Gender Plan of Action (2023-2030);^{133, 134} and (g) the capacity assessments undertaken by the support centres and relevant*

¹²⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹²⁹ [CBD/TSC/IAG/2025/2/2](#).

¹³⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹³² *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

¹³³ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

¹³⁴ [CBD/SBI/6/5](#).

organizations, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its eighth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

4. *Encourages* Parties, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations, including research and educational institutions, to collaborate with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and partners in the assessment and analysis of capacity needs and gaps at the national and subregional levels and to validate the assessment results;

5. *Also encourages* Parties, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations to provide, as part of the assessments by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and partners, specific information on their technological, technical and institutional capacity needs and gaps related to the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and of the Framework;

6. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the global coordination entity hosted by it in accordance with decision [16/3](#), to develop an assessment framework and methodology, including a typology of capacity needs and gaps, in order to enable the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to conduct future capacity needs assessments in a structured and harmonized manner;

7. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the first meeting of the Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum, convened in Cali, Colombia, on 19 October 2024;¹³⁵

8. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, organizations of women and youth and other relevant stakeholders, to consider, as appropriate, the key messages and recommendations from the Forum¹³⁶ in the design and implementation of their capacity-building and development actions, according to their needs, national circumstances and legislation;

9. *Invites* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and other regional bodies and relevant organizations to hold, as appropriate, regional capacity-building and development forums, with the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to facilitating regional cooperation, peer learning, the sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned in capacity-building and development in support of national and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans and the Framework;

10. *Takes note* of the progress report¹³⁷ in the implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;¹³⁸

11. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, organizations of women and youth and other relevant stakeholders to share the experiences and lessons learned in designing and implementing capacity-building and development initiatives and programmes using the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework, through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, according to national legislation, as appropriate;

12. *Urges* Parties, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to provide financial and technical support to biodiversity capacity-building and development activities using the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework, taking into consideration the specific situations of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing

¹³⁵ See www.cbd.int/cb/2024-cbd-forum-report.pdf.

¹³⁶ www.cbd.int/cb/cbd-2024-forum-key-messages.pdf.

¹³⁷ [CBD/SBI/7/INF/8](#).

¹³⁸ Decision [15/8](#), annex I.

States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in line with the priority needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans or national capacity-building and development strategies;

13. *Requests* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, subject to the availability of resources, and invites relevant organizations, in line with the requests made by Parties, to design and implement capacity-building and development activities using the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework, in particular the strengthening of regional cooperation, exchanges of experiences and peer learning;

14. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the independent evaluations of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism contained in annex I to the present decision;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To support the Informal Advisory Group in conducting an analysis of the capacity needs and gaps identified by Parties to facilitate its work in identifying options to further address the technical, technological and institutional capability gaps referred to in paragraph 3 above, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its eighth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

(b) To support the Informal Advisory Group, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in developing the assessment framework and methodology referred to in paragraph 6 above;

(c) To develop, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, practical and user-friendly guidance and learning materials, including a step-by-step guide and e-learning modules on the design and implementation of capacity-building and development using the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework, including methods for measuring progress in the implementation, effectiveness, sustainability and long-term impact of capacity-building initiatives, in order to support the implementation of the Framework, and to make such materials available through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) To monitor, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group, initiatives aimed at supporting the implementation of Target 20 of the Framework, and to compile emerging lessons and good practices and make them available through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism;

(e) To commission the independent evaluations referred to in paragraph 14 above using the terms of reference in annex I to the present decision, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting;

(f) To facilitate, in collaboration with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant organizations, the holding of capacity-building and development activities, including training-of-trainers workshops[,] and peer-to-peer learning exchanges[, technical mentoring and advisory support] for Parties, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders;

(g) To collaborate with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative, other initiatives and relevant organizations in order to organize capacity-building activities for Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, including their ministries responsible for finance, economic planning and national development and other relevant ministries, as appropriate, and indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as organizations of women and youth and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, on ways to mobilize domestic resources and gain access to international financing for capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer;

(h) To convene, in collaboration with partners, a third meeting of the Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum to facilitate the sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned in capacity-building and development in support of the implementation of the Framework before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(i) To submit a progress report on the activities outlined in subparagraphs (a) to (d) above to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

II

Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

16. *Takes note* of the progress report on the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism;¹³⁹

17. *Notes with concern* the financial, institutional and capacity constraints limiting the full operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the Global Coordination Entity and the fact that operationalization has been uneven across regions;

18. *Expresses appreciation* to the Secretariat of the Convention for initiating the operations of the Global Coordination Entity and providing staff to support the Entity's work until such time as the Entity becomes fully operational;

19. *Also expresses appreciation* to the technical and scientific cooperation support centres for their continued commitment and contributions to advancing technical and scientific cooperation;

20. *Further expresses appreciation* for the support provided by the Republic of Korea, through the Bio-Bridge Initiative and a Junior Professional Officer post in the Secretariat, and the voluntary financial contribution made by the European Union to facilitate the initial operationalization of the Global Coordination Entity;

21. *[Approves][Takes note of]* the *[proposed]* workplan *[and the budget]* of the Global Coordination Entity for the biennium 2027–2028, as contained in annex II to the present decision;¹⁴⁰

22. *Requests* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to take into account the gaps, challenges and barriers noted in the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and the seventh national reports of the Parties to the Convention, including challenges in the use of indicators summarized in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/11](#), when providing capacity-building and development support to Parties;

23. *Also requests* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to take into account, when providing capacity-building and development support to Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, the gaps, needs and challenges noted in the fifth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol,¹⁴¹ the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol,¹⁴² and the national reports of the Parties;

24. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments, United Nations entities, relevant international organizations, development agencies, research institutions, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide adequate, predictable, timely and easily accessible financial resources or in-kind contributions, or both, to support the programmes

¹³⁹ [CBD/SBI/7/INF/10](#).

¹⁴⁰ The annex will contain a workplan and budget based on those set out in the annex to document [CBD/SBI/7/10](#), as revised further to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present recommendation.

¹⁴¹ [CBD/SBI/7/6](#).

¹⁴² [CBD/SBI/7/7](#).

and long-term operations of the Global Coordination Entity and the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

25. *Invites* research institutions, academia and other relevant stakeholders to work actively with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the Global Coordination Entity by contributing their expertise, tools and other relevant resources;

26. *Reiterates* the request made in paragraph 23 of decision [16/3](#) to the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and invites other relevant multilateral funds and international financial institutions, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to support in all eligible countries country-driven projects that include technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building for the implementation of the Framework;

27. *Also reiterates* the request made in paragraph 24 of decision [16/3](#) to the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and invites other relevant multilateral funds and international financial institutions, in accordance with their mandates, to support the operationalization and activities of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as appropriate, in response to their requests in their respective subregions, in the context of country-driven projects of the eligible countries;

[28. *Invites* the Green Climate Fund, in recognition of the critical interdependence of biodiversity and climate change, to consider opportunities to support the activities of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, especially those relating to country-driven projects in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, aimed at implementing the Framework [in a manner [that avoids double counting]][that enhances significantly transparency in accounting]];

29. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments, United Nations entities, relevant international organizations, development agencies, research institutions, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders, to work actively with and support the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the Global Coordination Entity in addressing the challenges limiting their operations and effectiveness;

30. *Encourages* Parties, in their engagement with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant organizations, to ensure that technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building activities are implemented with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, consistent with national circumstances and legislation, including through the co-design of programmes, the identification of capacity needs, joint research, knowledge exchange and the development of technologies;

31. *Requests* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres:

(a) To enhance the establishment and operationalization of their governance structures and institutional frameworks;

(b) To submit to the Global Coordination Entity by the end of the first quarter of 2027 their workplans for the biennium 2027–2028 based on the needs and priorities identified by the Parties that they support;

(c) To submit to the Global Coordination Entity activity reports for the biennium 2027–2028 at its request, pursuant to subparagraph 33 (d) of the present decision;

32. *Also requests* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To develop and progressively scale up demand-driven support for Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation, on the basis of their identified priorities and needs, and use appropriate delivery modalities [, including by facilitating joint scientific research and technology development,] to respond to the demand for assistance;

(b) To further mobilize resources from all sources, including by developing joint project pipelines for support, leveraging innovative financing solutions and building on existing national, regional and international mechanisms, where applicable;

[33. *Requests* the Global Coordination Entity[, subject to the availability of resources]:

(a) To increase resource mobilization efforts and assist the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to do the same, by, inter alia, supporting project proposal development and identifying and engaging potential funding partners, including by convening round tables, and to assist the centres, upon request, in developing a multi-year budget with specific funding targets and timelines and resource mobilization strategies;

(b) To enhance coordination, collaboration and knowledge exchange among the technical and scientific cooperation support centres through, inter alia, the holding of regular coordination meetings, including at least one in-person meeting of their programme coordinators in each biennium, to facilitate experience sharing, peer-to-peer learning and the development of joint initiatives;

(c) To develop, in consultation with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and with assistance from the Informal Advisory Group, a common monitoring framework and reporting templates for the centres, with a view to ensuring consistent tracking of the outcomes and effectiveness of their technical and scientific cooperation support and to facilitating a review of progress by the Subsidiary Body of Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) To submit to the Secretariat a progress report on the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism for the biennium 2027–2028 based on its work and the biennial activity reports of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, for circulation as an information document at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties [and for subsequent consideration at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties];

[(e) To submit to the Secretariat a proposed workplan and budget for the biennium 2029–2030, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;]]

34. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

[(a) To further facilitate the full and effective operationalization of the Global Coordination Entity;]

(b) To increase resource mobilization efforts to support the work of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism, including by actively engaging with, as appropriate, multilateral funding sources, such as bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, development banks, philanthropic organizations and the private sector, with a view to securing adequate and predictable funding accessible by the Global Coordination Entity and the technical and scientific cooperation support centres[, while recognizing that private sector support should complement and not replace public international support for capacity-building];

(c) To further support, in collaboration with the global coordination entity and in line with decision [16/3](#), the technical and scientific cooperation support centres in identifying, and facilitating their access to, predictable funding sources, including through relevant partners, to enable them to

deliver effective, context-specific and demand-driven capacity-building and development support to Parties.

(d) To strengthen collaboration with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities and relevant partners, with a view to enhancing cooperation and complementarity, reducing fragmentation and maximizing the collective impact of capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation in support of the implementation of the Framework;

(e) To submit the progress report on the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism [prepared by the Global Coordination Entity further to subparagraph 33 (d) above] as an information document at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties [and for consideration at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties].

Annex I

Terms of reference for the independent evaluations of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

1. The present terms of reference are divided into two components (the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism) to allow for the conduct of two separate but interconnected evaluations. Each component is further divided into two subsections (objectives and scope of the evaluation and methodology and sources of information) to guide the evaluation.

I. Evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development

A. Objectives and scope of the evaluation

2. In accordance with paragraph 7 of decision [16/3](#) of 1 November 2024, and taking into account relevant parts of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁴³ the aim of the independent evaluation of the long-term strategic framework is to assess its relevance and effectiveness in guiding the capacity-building and development efforts of governmental and non-governmental actors in support of the Framework and to provide recommendations for its possible revision after 2030.

3. The evaluation will consist of an examination of how Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations have used the long-term strategic framework, whether it has supported the institutionalization of capacity-building and development within the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the extent to which it has promoted capacity-building and development efforts that are more effective, impactful and sustainable.

B. Methodology and sources of information

4. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁴⁴ will commission an independent evaluation in 2029, in conjunction with the second global review of the Framework. Any or all of the three following data collection methods will be used: (a) a review of relevant documentation, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national reports and existing case studies and project reports; (b) an online survey; and (c) interviews with representatives of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations involved in capacity-building and development,

¹⁴³ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁴⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

both as capacity providers and as recipients. The global information thus gathered will be analysed and disaggregated by region and subregion. The report of the evaluation will contain details on the design and the methods of analysis chosen.

5. The following non-exhaustive set of elements is intended to guide the design of the evaluation:

(a) Extent of the awareness among Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations of the role of the long-term strategic framework in guiding capacity-building and development efforts;

(b) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has been used by Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations in their capacity-building and development interventions;

(c) Identification of effective strategies, approaches and mechanisms for the implementation of the long-term strategic framework;

(d) Main challenges or obstacles in applying the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework;

(e) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has encouraged and helped Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations to institutionalize capacity-building and development as part of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(f) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has led to desired changes and improvements, including the achievement of Target 20 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the indicative medium-term capacity outcomes set forth in the strategic framework;

(g) Extent to which the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework has resulted in enhanced coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the capacity-building and development efforts of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations;

(h) Extent to which relevant organizations and stakeholders have used the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework, especially in relation to the design of longer-term and programmatic approaches;

(i) Relevance and appropriateness of the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework for responding to the needs and priorities of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations for capacity-building and development;

(j) Components and aspects of the long-term strategic framework that Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations have found relevant and helpful in guiding their capacity-building and development efforts;

(k) How the relevance of any of the components and aspects of the long-term strategic framework may have changed since the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted;

(l) Lessons to be drawn from the experience of using the long-term strategic framework to guide capacity-building and development for biodiversity;

(m) What has worked well, including good practices and lessons learned, and what has not, what barriers have persisted and what gaps remain;

(n) Whether additional support is needed (e.g. guidance, tool kits or training) that would enhance the uptake and usability of the long-term strategic framework;

(o) Recommendations on approaches to capacity-building and development beyond 2030 (e.g. the continuation of the long-term strategic framework, its modification or its replacement by another framework or approach for capacity-building and development).

6. In addition to the elements listed above, and subject to the availability of data, the evaluation may, alongside relevant indicators under the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, draw on the following indicators, which are based on those proposed by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation during its third meeting, in 2024.¹⁴⁵

(a) Number of national organizations implementing elements of the long-term strategic framework;

(b) Number of countries that have developed national capacity-development plans;

(c) Number of thematic capacity-development actions plans to support the implementation of the Framework;

(d) Number of long-term capacity-building and development initiatives established to support the implementation of the Framework;

(e) Amount of financial resources mobilized and dedicated to capacity-building and development, in relation to implementation of the Framework, by funding source.

7. Information for the review will be drawn from various sources, including:

(a) National reports;

(b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(c) Information published through the online reporting tool;

(d) Reports on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework prepared by the Secretariat;

(e) Reports and submissions from the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies and other relevant funding mechanisms, including the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, as well as relevant organizations, stakeholders, initiatives and partnerships involved in or supporting capacity-building and development;

(f) Reports of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(g) Reports developed by and specific to indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations;

(h) Report of the review of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030);¹⁴⁶

(i) Information gathered through an online survey and targeted interviews with a regionally balanced set of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, funding agencies and other stakeholders, to ensure that contextual challenges are identified.

II. Evaluation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism

A. Objectives and scope of the evaluation

8. In accordance with paragraph 7 of decision [16/3](#), and taking into account relevant parts of section C of the Framework, the aim of the independent evaluation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism is to assess its relevance and effectiveness in supporting the implementation of the Framework. The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

¹⁴⁵ See [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#), in particular para. 26.

¹⁴⁶ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

- (a) To review the effectiveness of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism as a means of supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework;
- (b) To take stock of the main achievements of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity and of the challenges encountered;
- (c) To identify good practices and lessons learned and make recommendations on enhancing the cooperation mechanism in support of national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Framework beyond 2030.

B. Methodology and sources of information

9. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat will commission an independent evaluation in 2029, in conjunction with the second global review of the Framework, focused on the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. Any or all of the three following data-collection methods will be used: (a) a review of relevant documentation, including biennial workplans and activity reports of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national reports and existing case studies and project reports; (b) an online survey; and (c) interviews with representatives of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations, staff of the support centres and the global coordination entity, and key partners. The global information thus gathered will be analysed and disaggregated by region and subregion. The report of the evaluation will contain details on the design and the methods of analysis chosen.

10. The following non-exhaustive set of elements is intended to guide the design of the evaluation:

- (a) Extent to which the mechanism has succeeded in fostering technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations in support of the Framework and the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (b) Extent to which the mechanism has enhanced technical and institutional capacities in relation to science, technology and innovation;
- (c) Identification of effective strategies implemented to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and the development, transfer and use of technology on voluntary and mutually agreed terms;
- (d) Extent to which the activities and projects under the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism have been guided by the principles set forth in section B of annex II to decision [15/8](#) of 19 December 2022;
- (e) Extent to which the technical and scientific cooperation support centres have been able to fulfil their functions, pursuant to paragraph 26 of decision [15/8](#);
- (f) How resources have affected the fulfilment of the functions of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;
- (g) What has worked well, including good practices and lessons learned, and what has not worked well in operationalizing the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity;
- (h) Main challenges in operationalizing the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity;
- (i) Institutional, financial or operational constraints that have been faced by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;
- (j) Extent to which the technical and scientific cooperation support centres have been able to coordinate effectively with one another and other relevant initiatives, platforms, centres or

networks, including those involving indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in their respective region or subregions;

(k) Level of satisfaction of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations with the support that they have received from the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(l) Level of satisfaction of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres with the coordination and services offered by the global coordination entity;

(m) Key recommendations on enhancing the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism beyond 2030, as relevant.

11. In addition to the elements listed above, the evaluation will be conducted, as appropriate, using the criteria for evaluating the performance of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity. Subject to the availability of data, the evaluation may, alongside relevant indicators under the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, draw on the following indicators, which are based on those proposed by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation during its third meeting:¹⁴⁷

(a) Number of countries receiving support from the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(b) Number of tools and technical resources exchanged across the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(c) Proportion of financial resources mobilized against estimated budgets for the implementation of the biennial workplans of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(d) Number of technical and scientific cooperation opportunities made available and used by Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations;

(e) Number of successful matchmaking efforts;

(f) Number of technological applications adopted across countries;

(g) Number of expert exchange programmes implemented;

(h) Number of joint research programmes implemented;

(i) Number of joint technological development ventures implemented.

12. Information for the review will be drawn from various sources, including:

(a) Workplans developed for the technical and scientific cooperation centres and the global coordination entity;

(b) Biennial activity reports;

(c) Progress reports prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Reports on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework prepared by the Secretariat;

(e) Information gathered through an online survey and targeted interviews.

¹⁴⁷ See [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#), in particular para. 26.

Annex II

Workplan and budget of the Global Coordination Entity for the biennium 2027–2028

Table 1

Workplan for the biennium 2027–2028

<i>Strategic priorities and outcomes</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline and target</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
1. The institutional and operational capacity of the Global Coordination Entity is strengthened	1.1 The Global Coordination Entity is staffed and fully operationalized	1.1.1 Recruit and onboard dedicated core Global Coordination Entity staff (1 P-4, 1 P-2 and 1 G-7)	Number of staff hired and onboarded	Baseline: 0 Target: 3	Second quarter of 2027
		1.1.2 Set up and strengthen the Global Coordination Entity administrative and financial management arrangements (human resources, finance and administration) with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity ¹⁴⁸	Number of administrative procedures and processes for the Global Coordination Entity set up or managed by the Secretariat of the Convention	Baseline: 2 Target: 2	Second quarter of 2027 and first quarter of 2028
		1.1.3 Update the biennial workplan of the Global Coordination Entity on the basis of the decisions adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety ¹⁴⁹ and sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization ¹⁵⁰	Biennial workplan updated	Baseline: 1 Target: 1	First quarter of 2027
		1.1.3 Develop annual workplans for staff, and appraise staff performance	Number of staff workplans and performance	Baseline: 0 Target: 6	Second quarter of 2027 and first quarter of 2028

¹⁴⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid., vol. 3008, No. 30619.

<i>Strategic priorities and outcomes</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline and target</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
			appraisals prepared in a timely manner		
		1.1.4 Establish and implement a monitoring framework for the Global Coordination Entity to track and report on progress	Number of progress reports prepared using the monitoring framework for the Global Coordination Entity	Baseline: 0 Target: 2	First quarter of 2027
		1.1.5 Strengthen the digital collaboration platform and knowledge management system of the Global Coordination Entity	Number of technical and scientific cooperation support centres actively using the digital collaboration platform	Baseline: 0 Target: 18	First quarter of 2027
	1.2 Operational modalities and guidelines are developed	1.2.1 Update the workplan template for the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Workplan template updated and shared with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Baseline: 1 Target: 1	Fourth quarter of 2027
		1.2.2 Update reporting template for the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Reporting template updated and shared with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Baseline: 1 Target: 1	Third quarter 2027
		1.2.3 Support the development of a needs assessment methodology for use by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Needs assessment methodology shared with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Baseline: 0 Target: 1	Fourth quarter of 2027
		1.2.4 Develop guidelines to help the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to integrate gender-responsive approaches into their workplans	Guidelines on gender-responsive approaches developed and shared with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Baseline: 0 Target: 1	Second quarter of 2027
		1.2.5 Develop an operational manual for the Global Coordination Entity outlining all	Operational manual developed	Baseline: 0 Target: 1	Third quarter 2028

<i>Strategic priorities and outcomes</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline and target</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
		standard operating procedures, processes and guidelines			
2. Coordination, collaboration and knowledge exchange among the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres are enhanced	2.1 Monthly coordination meetings of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres are held	2.1.1 Hold monthly information-sharing meetings	Number of monthly information-sharing meetings held	Baseline: 0 Target: 22	Ongoing
	2.2 Annual coordination meetings are held	2.2.1 Hold annual coordination meetings (one in person and one online)	Number of annual coordination meetings held	Baseline: 0 Target: 2	First quarter of 2027 (online) First quarter of 2028 (in person)
	2.3 The exchange of information, knowledge and lessons learned across the technical and scientific cooperation support centres is facilitated	2.3.1 Further develop and maintain knowledge and collaboration platforms to facilitate the timely exchange of information and knowledge and promote collaboration synergies across the network of technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Percentage of members of the network of technical and scientific cooperation support centres actively engaging on social media platforms, and collaboration platforms established	Baseline: 30% Target: 100%	Ongoing
		2.3.2 Disseminate periodic updates, guidance, lessons learned and best practices to the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and partners	Number of updates, guidance, lessons learned and best practices exchanged among the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Baseline: 0 Target: at least 10	Ongoing
	2.4 The workplans of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres for the	2.4.1 Update the compilation of relevant requests for capacity-building and development activities, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer support ¹⁵¹ with similar requests and relevant requests for	Updated compilation of requests shared with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Baseline: 1 Target: 1	First quarter of 2027

¹⁵¹ [CBD/SBI/6/INF/3](#), annex.

<i>Strategic priorities and outcomes</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline and target</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
	biennium 2027–2028 are completed	the technical and scientific cooperation support centres adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol			
		2.4.2 Support the preparation of the workplans of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres for the biennium 2027–2028	Number of workplans of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres posted	Baseline:0 Target:15	First quarter of 2027
	2.5 Progress reports are prepared for meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	2.5.1 Compile progress reports from the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and prepare summary reports for meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	Number of reports of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres posted	Baseline: 0 Target: 15	Third quarter of 2028
3. The capacity of the regional and subregional technical and scientific support centres is strengthened	3.1 The help desk of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres is fully functional	3.1.1 Receive and respond to general inquiries and requests for support from the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Number of helpdesk requests and inquiries addressed	Baseline: 0 Target: at least 10	Second quarter of 2027
	3.2 Technical assistance and guidance are provided to the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	3.1.2 Provide technical information, advisory services and responses to queries from the technical and scientific cooperation support centres on specific topics in a timely manner	Number of technical assistance requests addressed	Baseline:0 Target: at least 10	Ongoing (as needed)
	3.3 Capacity-building activities, including peer-to-peer learning, are	3.3.1 Facilitate online and in-person capacity development activities for the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Number of capacity development activities facilitated	Baseline:0 Target: at least 4	Ongoing (on demand)

<i>Strategic priorities and outcomes</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline and target</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
	facilitated (on demand)				
4. New partnerships are leveraged, and resources are mobilized	4.1 A resource mobilization strategy is prepared and implemented	4.1.1 Prepare and implement a resource mobilization strategy with support from experts	Number of funding opportunities identified and pursued	Baseline: 0 Target: at least 5	First quarter of 2027
		4.1.2 Convene online and in-person meetings and round tables to engage with potential donors and supporters	Number of donor engagement meetings convened	Baseline: 0 Target: at least 5	Ongoing
		4.1.3 Mobilize in-kind support, including secondments and volunteers	Number of organizations providing in-kind support	Baseline: 0 Target: 3	Ongoing
	4.2 New partnerships are established and leveraged	4.2.1 Establish and maintain partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions to support the technical and scientific cooperation support centres	Number of new collaborative partnerships established	Baseline: 0 Target: 5	Ongoing
5. The communications and visibility of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism are enhanced	5.1 A brand identity for the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism is created, and promotional materials are developed	5.1.1 Finalize and promote of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism logo in the six official languages of the United Nations	Number of technical and scientific cooperation support centres actively using the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism logo in their communications	Baseline: 0 Target: 18	First quarter of 2027
		5.1.2 Develop and disseminate additional promotional materials for the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, such as bookmarks, pins and stickers	Number of promotional materials produced and disseminated	Baseline: 0 Target: 500	First quarter of 2027
	5.2 Events are organized to promote and showcase the work and achievements of the technical and scientific	5.2.1 Organize and support promotional and knowledge-sharing events to showcase the work, achievements and impact of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism	Number of events organized to promote and showcase the work, achievements and impact of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism	Baseline: 0 Target: 4	Fourth quarter of 2027 and 2028

<i>Strategic priorities and outcomes</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline and target</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
	cooperation mechanism				
	5.3 Digital communications and online presence are enhanced	5.3.1 Manage and maintain digital communication channels, including social media and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism webpage	Number of digital communication products (web updates and social media posts) published and disseminated	Baseline:0 Target: at least 30	Ongoing

Table 2
Budget for the biennium 2027–2028*
 (United States dollars)

<i>Budget item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Staff	
1 P-4	430 000
1 P-2	286 008
1 G-7	180 000
Consultants	81 000
Staff travel ^a	79 200
Activities	
Annual coordination meetings ^b	100 500
Operating costs ^c	12 000
Subtotal	1 168 708
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	151 932
Total	1 320 640

^a Including travel to meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties, as well as other travel to strengthen partnerships and collaboration.

^b Including airfare and daily subsistence allowance for representatives of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to attend one in-person meeting each biennium.

^c Operational costs required by the Global Coordination Entity, such as computers and software licences. Other core operating costs, including office space and other office equipment, office supplies, Internet connection and communication support, will be borne by the Secretariat of the Convention.

* The budget of the Global Coordination Entity for the biennium 2027–2028 is also included in the note by the Secretariat on requirements for the trust fund for additional voluntary contributions in support of approved activities (CBD/COP/17/4/Add.2).

Item 12 (b)**Matters relating to support mechanisms for the implementation and awareness of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [7/10](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [16/9 A and B](#) of 1 November 2024,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030¹⁵² and the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;^{153,154}
2. *Reiterates* the need for Parties, other Governments, [actors other than national Governments,¹⁵⁵] the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support, centres,[and] the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁵⁶ [and[, as appropriate,] indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant initiatives and organizations] to continue to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy, in particular through capacity-building and development;
3. *Notes* the challenges faced by many Parties, in particular developing country Parties, in the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy;
4. *Urges* Parties, in line with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to provide financial and technical support for biodiversity capacity-building and development activities, taking into consideration the specific situations of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, to implement the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy;
5. *Encourages* Parties to include in their eighth national reports, when reporting on Targets 20 and 21 of the Framework, on a voluntary basis and as appropriate, information on progress made, challenges and specific capacity needs in implementing the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy, including, as appropriate, the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;]
6. *Also encourages* Parties to strengthen and sustain their national clearing-house mechanisms, as appropriate;
7. *Recalls* that it will review progress towards the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy at its nineteenth

¹⁵² Decision [16/9 A](#), annex.

¹⁵³ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁵⁴ Decision [16/9 B](#), annex.

¹⁵⁵ All references to “actors other than national Governments” are to be understood in line with decisions [15/6](#), paragraph 26, and [16/32](#), paragraph 3.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

meeting, in conjunction with the second global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, in order to avoid duplication of existing review processes;

8. *Invites* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres[and, where applicable, actors other than national Governments,] to collaborate with Parties and share with them through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism information and experiences, best practices, success stories and lessons learned, as relevant, in the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation and subject to availability of the resources:

(a) To strengthen and accelerate the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy, including by addressing the needs identified in the first global review of collective progress;

(b) To enhance the implementation of future work under the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy, as set out in document [CBD/SBI/7/INF/12](#);

(c) To [prioritize][enhance] work related to interoperability and efficiency improvements resulting, inter alia, from the use of artificial intelligence and other relevant new technology, and further improvements to the online reporting tool and to the access to, search of and useability of information on the Convention website, in support of the implementation and monitoring of and reporting on the Framework;

(d) To support Parties in facilitating the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy;

(e) To support Parties in the use of the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism and the online reporting tool;

(f) To collaborate with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres [and, as applicable, actors other than national Governments,] by, inter alia, providing technical support and capacity-building and development on national clearing-house mechanisms, in particular with regard to governance, interoperability, data management, links with regional and global information systems and the use of the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism and the online reporting tool, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy, specifically to enable the centres to provide technical assistance and capacity-building and development to support the establishment, operationalization and strengthening of national clearing-house mechanisms, as appropriate;

(g) To submit to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy;

[(h) To prepare an analysis of the implementation of the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism and the knowledge management strategy for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to informing the review of implementation of the programme of work and of the strategy in conjunction with the second global review of collective progress to be conducted at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties[, ensuring that the review of implementation is conducted in an inclusive and balanced manner, taking into account the varying levels of development and operationalization of national clearing-house mechanisms,] [and that the analysis include, where appropriate, voluntary indicators to assess where national clearing-house mechanisms are functioning and contributing to the implementation of the Framework];]

(i) To facilitate, in collaboration with the Knowledge Management for Biodiversity Initiative, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and other partners, regional

workshops on knowledge management in regions where such workshops have not yet been held, before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 12 (c)

Matters relating to support mechanisms for the implementation and awareness of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: communication, education and public awareness

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [7/12](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Communication, education and public awareness

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [16/10](#) of 1 November 2024,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report on the implementation of the suggested actions to align the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness for the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁵⁷ with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁵⁸ as provided in document [CBD/SBI/7/13](#);
2. *Welcomes* the successful hosting by South Africa of the global celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity in 2026 under the theme “Acting locally for global impact”;
3. *Reiterates* its request to the Executive Secretary in subparagraph 6 (c) of decision [16/10](#) to keep the topic of communication, education and public awareness under review at its eighteenth and nineteenth meetings;
4. *Welcomes* the draft global plan of action for education on biodiversity contained in the annex to the present decision, and recommends its use, including as a basis for further inputs, noting that it is a living document that will be further developed;
5. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, [to use] [and implement] the draft global plan of action for education on biodiversity, with a view to supporting the transformative actions needed to achieve the goals and targets of the Framework and its vision of a world living in harmony with nature;]
6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders to provide inputs, through a peer-review process, to further develop the global plan of action;
7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and [actors other than national Governments][other relevant stakeholders] to consider providing adequate, predictable and accessible technical and financial support for the development, uptake and implementation of the draft global plan of action, including in response to the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States among them, [by, inter alia, providing dedicated and easily accessible resources to indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth for such education activities as community-led education initiatives] [in accordance with national legislation and through appropriate national mechanisms];

¹⁵⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁵⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness:

(a) To conduct an inclusive and transparent peer review to further develop the plan of action;

(b) To submit, further to the peer review, an updated version of the draft global plan of action for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to its consideration at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) To keep abreast of developments in other relevant international education initiatives and processes, [such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Greening Education Partnership, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Action for Climate Empowerment and the Programme for International Student Assessment climate literacy assessment,] with a view to encouraging appropriate cooperation in the development, implementation and promotion of communication, education and public awareness plans at the national level and under relevant international processes;

(d) To facilitate the sharing of open-access digital biodiversity education resources, including learning materials, virtual learning platforms and digital knowledge products in the six official languages of the United Nations, through the clearing-house mechanism, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, as applicable;

9. *Encourages* Parties, taking into account national circumstances and legislation:

(a) To integrate education on biodiversity in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, where applicable [and in a manner consistent with][, and] national and subnational educational plans, as appropriate, taking into consideration the outcomes of the first global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and building on existing education-related monitoring frameworks, including by considering formal, non-formal and informal education programmes and initiatives;

(b) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national mechanisms or platforms for coordinating biodiversity communication, education and public awareness across relevant ministries, educational institutions, scientific organizations and other stakeholders in order to promote a coherent implementation of the global plan of action;

(c) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms for translating scientific and technical biodiversity information into policy-relevant and practical communication products that can support decision-making, education and public engagement;

(d) To mainstream biodiversity across formal education curricula by integrating biodiversity and conservation concepts, ecosystem stewardship and care, and sustainable use considerations into relevant subjects and disciplines, taking into account national education systems and priorities.

Annex

Draft global plan of action for education on biodiversity

I. Background and context

1. Pursuant to the request contained in decision [16/10](#) of 1 November 2024 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁵⁹ and in line with the suggested actions to align the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness with the Kunming-

¹⁵⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁶⁰ contained in the annex to the decision, the Executive Secretary prepared the global plan of action for education on biodiversity through a collaborative and participatory process involving consultations with Parties, observers, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth representatives, including the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization played a leading role in facilitating consultations and technical inputs, consistent with its mandate on education.

2. The global plan is intended to strengthen knowledge, values, competences and skills in support of behavioural change, and individual and collective action by fostering agency, stewardship and transformative leadership consistent with the 2030 targets of the Framework, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances.

3. Inputs provided through consultations, including through the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, have informed the structure, expected outcomes, priority areas and indicative actions of the global plan.

II. Purpose

4. The purpose of the global plan is to support the effective implementation of the Framework and to contribute measurably to the achievement of its goals and targets, including the actions related to communication, education, awareness and uptake contained in section K of the Framework, by strengthening education on biodiversity as a strategic enabling condition for transformative change¹⁶¹ and fostering long-term societal engagement and action. Education on biodiversity is to be understood as education that fosters views, structures and practices that are consistent with living in harmony with nature and that addresses the direct, underlying and structural causes of biodiversity loss, going beyond the transmission of knowledge and awareness alone.

5. The global plan provides a flexible framework with interconnected outcomes to advance education on biodiversity through formal, non-formal and informal learning, in support of the 2030 targets and the Framework. It is aimed at enabling informed decision-making and individual and collective action by strengthening knowledge, values and skills and by helping people to understand the relevance of biodiversity to their daily life, while supporting action competence, systems thinking and active participation in biodiversity conservation.

6. The global plan covers the period up to 2030, coinciding with the time frame of the targets of the Framework. Its implementation is to be reviewed at the eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

7. The global plan is intended to support Parties, subnational governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders and actors, in accordance with national legislation and priorities, in advancing education on biodiversity and actions to conserve and restore biodiversity sustainably, through voluntary, nationally driven implementation supported by partnerships and the meaningful participation of indigenous people and local communities, women, youth and civil society. It should also inform related educational efforts, including those addressing the links among biodiversity, climate change, ecosystem restoration and sustainable development, while maintaining its primary focus under the Convention.

8. The implementation of the global plan should be adapted to diverse national contexts, circumstances and priorities and carried out through approaches that are specific to national formal and non-formal educational systems, capacities and implementation pathways.

¹⁶⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁶¹ See Karen O'Brien, Lucas Garibaldi and Arun Agrawal, eds., *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity* (Bonn, Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2024).

III. Guiding principles for implementation

9. The implementation of the global plan is to be guided by the following principles, which are aligned with the Convention and the Framework and support coherent, voluntary and nationally driven implementation across diverse contexts:

(a) Education on biodiversity, including strengthening biodiversity literacy, values, competences and skills, as well as decision-making capacity and leadership in government, business, finance and society, underpins the achievement of the goals and targets of the Framework;

(b) Education on biodiversity is lifelong, takes place in formal, non-formal and informal contexts and involves a wide range of actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and locations, including institutions, sectors, communities and social spaces, in line with a whole-of-society approach;

(c) Approaches to education on biodiversity should be pluralistic, holistic, gender-responsive and equitable, recognize and integrate diverse knowledge systems and world views, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and promote co-creation, intercultural learning and intergenerational knowledge exchange;

(d) Actions to advance education on biodiversity should be context-specific, inclusive and adaptive and reflect national priorities, educational systems, institutional arrangements and diverse cultural, social, economic and ecological settings, including at the local, subnational, national and regional levels;

(e) Education on biodiversity should be grounded in empirical place- and project-based learning in order to foster direct engagement with natural, cultural and living environments, and engage learners in specific, locally relevant, problem-solving activities, which could be complemented by online education;

(f) Actions to advance education on biodiversity should foster partnerships and collaboration among Parties, subnational governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders and actors, in support of collective action;

(g) Implementation of the global plan should be gender-responsive, consistent with decision [15/11](#) of 19 December 2022 and Target 23 of the Framework.

IV. Results framework

10. The results framework for the global plan comprises three interrelated expected outcomes that are supported by five priority areas for action and three cross-cutting enabling conditions for implementation, as shown in the figure below. Together, those elements form an integrated framework in which individual learning, educator and system capacity, and the broader enabling conditions required for sustained implementation are connected.

Results framework for the global plan of action for education on biodiversity

Expected outcomes				
1. Strengthened understanding of the connection with and stewardship of biodiversity		2. Strengthened educator and system capacity to foster understanding of biodiversity		3. Strengthened enabling conditions for the implementation of policies supporting the plan of action
Priority areas for action				
Fostering human-nature connectedness	Pluralistic, holistic and equitable education	Capacity-building for educators and learning systems	Enhancing and stewardship of coordination, platforms and	Embedding education on biodiversity in policy and curriculum

and stewardship actions			knowledge exchange	frameworks and infrastructure
<i>Cross-cutting enabling conditions for implementation</i>				
Lifelong, life-wide and life-deep learning	Whole-of-society engagement		Sustainable financing and incentives	

11. The three cross-cutting enabling conditions support the implementation of actions under the priority areas and the achievement of the expected outcomes by strengthening the institutional, social and learning environments necessary for sustained progress. The enabling conditions relate to the broader systemic and societal foundations required to support implementation at scale and over time. They address lifelong, life-wide and life-deep learning; whole-of-society engagement, ensuring the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and sustainable financing and incentives.

12. The expected outcomes reflect the understanding that transformative change requires action across multiple dimensions, including relationships between people and biodiversity, the development of active global citizenship competences, the capacity of educators and learning systems to support learners across diverse contexts and the broader institutional, policy and financing conditions necessary to ensuring coherence, scale and long-term impact. The outcomes are mutually reinforcing and are not intended to be pursued in isolation.

13. Expected outcome 1, on strengthened understanding of the connection with and stewardship of biodiversity, follows from the recognition of the ability of education on biodiversity to strengthen knowledge, values and skills. The aim is to enable learners and communities to understand the relevance of biodiversity to their lives, adopt supporting behaviours, become active global citizens and act in ways that contribute to sustaining biodiversity.

14. Expected outcome 2, on strengthened educator and system capacity, follows from the recognition that education on biodiversity requires both strengthened educator capacity and more coherent system-wide approaches. The aim is to support the development of professional educators, including teachers, trainers, civil society educators, community knowledge holders and other learning facilitators, while strengthening the institutions, platforms and learning systems for biodiversity education in order to reach learners in diverse settings.

15. Expected outcome 3, on strengthened enabling conditions for implementation, follows from the recognition that lasting impact depends on institutional arrangements, policy coherence and sustained resourcing that extend beyond individual programmes and political cycles. Achieving the outcome and the consistent and effective contribution of biodiversity education to biodiversity-related goals will require the enabling conditions to be strengthened across national contexts.

16. The results framework is accompanied by indicators and monitoring mechanisms that enable the assessment of progress, outcomes and contributions to the goals and targets of the Framework.

V. Priority areas for action: objectives and indicative actions

17. Objectives and indicative actions for each of the priority areas and cross-cutting enabling conditions provide pathways for implementing the global plan in support of the Framework.

18. Tables 1 to 4 below contain the objectives, indicative actions, possible deliverables and indicative actors associated with each priority area and cross-cutting enabling condition. The priority areas are organized under the three expected outcomes described above. The indicative actions are intended to support voluntary and nationally driven implementation consistent with national priorities and capacities. Their implementation may also contribute to adaptive learning, monitoring and knowledge exchange over time.

19. The Secretariat of the Convention is requested to work with Parties and relevant partners to develop voluntary, non-prescriptive guidance and indicators to help Parties to monitor and report on

public access to, and use of, biodiversity education and information, building on national experience, including under Target 21 of the Framework.

Table 1

Expected outcome 1: priority areas, objectives, indicative actions, possible deliverables and indicative actors

<i>Priority area</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Indicative actions</i>	<i>Possible deliverables</i>	<i>Indicative actors</i>
Fostering human-nature connectedness and stewardship actions	To strengthen lifelong human-nature connectedness and active global citizenship competences	• Expand experiential, outdoor and place- and project-based learning across formal, non-formal and informal contexts, enhancing access to and sustainable interaction with nature • Support early childhood, family-based and intergenerational learning • Promote cultural, artistic and storytelling approaches that foster emotional connections with biodiversity and nature • Promote sustainable consumption, production and lifestyle competencies that reduce pressures on biodiversity • Promote the use of languages of indigenous peoples and local communities and rural and community media, including community radio, in the design and delivery of biodiversity education materials, to reach underserved and remote populations	Non-prescriptive guidance, illustrative case studies, community-based initiatives and learning resources, and examples of approaches that support behavioural change, including access to and sustainable interaction with nature	Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, education authorities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, scientists and relevant organizations
Pluralistic, holistic and equitable education	To promote pluralistic, holistic and equitable approaches to education on biodiversity, including through gender-responsive implementation	• Draw from scientific knowledge alongside diverse knowledge systems, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities • Promote critical and systems thinking that addresses links among biodiversity, climate, health, human rights and sustainable development	Co-created learning resources, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral learning modules, learning materials in languages of indigenous peoples and local communities, localized learning materials and examples of good practice	Parties, educational authorities and institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women's and youth organizations

<i>Priority area</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Indicative actions</i>	<i>Possible deliverables</i>	<i>Indicative actors</i>
		• Support the development of competences that strengthen agency and responsible action • Support culturally relevant and context-specific learning approaches and integrate cultural diversity in education, including in traditional and local management practices • Support critical and transformative pedagogy that enables learners to identify and act on the structural and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, in addition to knowledge-transfer approaches		

Table 2

Expected outcome 2: priority areas, objectives, indicative actions, possible deliverables and indicative actors

<i>Priority area</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Indicative actions</i>	<i>Possible deliverables</i>	<i>Indicative actors</i>
Capacity-building for educators and learning systems	To strengthen the capacity of educators and learning systems to support education on biodiversity	• Support pre-service and in-service professional development • Support the integration of biodiversity competencies into national teacher qualification standards and teacher licensing systems • Facilitate the creation and strengthening of communities of practice and peer-learning networks • Improve access to tools and resources for educators across learning contexts	Voluntary training opportunities, educator toolkits, and peer-learning networks and exchanges	Parties, teacher education institutions, civil society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations and other relevant organizations

<i>Priority area</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Indicative actions</i>	<i>Possible deliverables</i>	<i>Indicative actors</i>
	To strengthen the institutional integration of education on biodiversity within governance, standards and quality assurance frameworks	• Integrate biodiversity into teacher competency standards and accreditation processes • Align the objectives of education on biodiversity with curriculum review cycles and assessment frameworks, including the Programme for International Student Assessment climate literacy assessment • Incorporate education on biodiversity into institutional development plans • Strengthen professional training on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	Illustrative competency frameworks, curriculum review references, and institutional self-assessment tools and guidance	Parties, educational authorities, accreditation bodies, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women's and youth organizations

Table 3

Expected outcome 3: priority areas, objectives, indicative actions, possible deliverables and indicative actors

<i>Priority area</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Indicative actions</i>	<i>Possible deliverables</i>	<i>Indicative actors</i>
Enhancing coordination, platforms and knowledge exchange	To strengthen coordination, collaboration and knowledge exchange across actors and systems	• Strengthen national and regional platforms for education on biodiversity • Facilitate the exchange of resources, knowledge and experiences • Support coordination among relevant actors and initiatives	Voluntary platforms or coordination mechanisms, shared repositories and knowledge exchange events	Parties, the Secretariat of the Convention, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations and other relevant organizations
Embedding education in policy and curriculum frameworks	To embed education on biodiversity, including on the state and trends of biodiversity and the impacts and dependence of economic activities and societies on biodiversity, within policy, planning and curriculum frameworks	• Integrate biodiversity into education policies, curricula and standards • Promote coherence between education and biodiversity-related policies and strategies • Align education with national biodiversity priorities and whole-of-government approaches	Illustrative policy guidance, curriculum references and examples of alignment with global initiatives	Parties, educational authorities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women's and youth organizations

Table 4

Cross-cutting enabling conditions: objectives, indicative actions, possible deliverables and indicative actors

<i>Cross-cutting enabling condition</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Indicative actions</i>	<i>Possible deliverables</i>	<i>Indicative actors</i>
Lifelong, life-wide and life-deep learning	To promote continuous lifelong learning across formal, non-formal and informal contexts	• Support learning across early childhood, youth, adult and professional education • Promote intergenerational and community-based learning • Strengthen continuity across learning pathways • Support youth leadership platforms, intergenerational partnerships and mechanisms for youth participation in biodiversity-related decision-making and implementation processes • Enhance access to and sustainable interaction with nature	Age-appropriate learning outcomes, awareness initiatives and voluntary learning pathways	Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, civil society and education providers, public institutions and private companies
Whole-of-society engagement	To foster inclusive engagement across sectors and stakeholders	• Engage indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, families, media and the private sector • Strengthen partnerships and collaboration • Support public engagement and cross-sector participation	Partnership initiatives, and outreach and awareness programmes	Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, the private sector, civil society and public institutions

<i>Cross-cutting enabling condition</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Indicative actions</i>	<i>Possible deliverables</i>	<i>Indicative actors</i>
Sustainable financing and incentives	To support sustainable, accessible and predictable financing for education on biodiversity	• Promote integration of education on biodiversity, including on the state and trends of biodiversity and the impacts and dependence of economic activities and societies on biodiversity, into national financing and budgeting processes • Support equitable and direct access to grant and research funding for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth • Allocate public funding to public academic establishments for biodiversity-related education programmes, curricula and awareness campaigns • Encourage donors and financial mechanisms to ensure that financing for education on biodiversity is predictable, accessible and responsive to the specific circumstances of least developed countries and small island developing States	Illustrative financing approaches, resource mobilization examples and public-private partnerships	Parties, donors, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women's and youth organizations

VI. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

20. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting can be strengthened at the international level by inviting Parties to provide information on activities and policies involving the implementation of the global plan in their national communications, where possible, and in reports, including national reports, and by inviting indigenous peoples and local communities to submit information through their own reporting processes, including the *Local Biodiversity Outlook* and community-based monitoring and information systems. Such information could cover accomplishments, lessons learned, experience, challenges and opportunities and be used to develop indicators and monitoring mechanisms. Wherever possible, the information should be disaggregated by age and gender. For indigenous peoples and local communities, where appropriate, sex-disaggregated data and information on the participation, leadership and reach of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, could be systematically collected and used. The priority areas for action, objectives and indicative actions provide a useful guide for that purpose.

21. In addition, entities of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and other non-Party stakeholders could be invited to submit information to the Secretariat on the implementation of the global plan at all levels.

22. At the national level, Parties are encouraged to share with the public and all stakeholders the findings contained in their national communications and national biodiversity strategies and action plans or domestic programmes on biodiversity regarding the implementation of the global plan, using such tools as social media to reach and engage multiple stakeholders, as appropriate. Parties are also encouraged to involve indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders more closely in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on activities carried out under the global plan. Parties are further encouraged to report on the extent to which their activities with regard to education on biodiversity reflect transformative approaches and the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in the design and delivery of such activities.

Item 13

Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [6/6](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [XIII/24](#) of 17 December 2016, [14/30](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/4](#) and [15/13](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/35](#) of 27 February 2025,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 80/140 of 15 December 2025 and previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁶²

Recognizing that strengthening cooperation, synergies and complementarity among multilateral environmental agreements and relevant organizations must be promoted in a Party-driven manner, with adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, while avoiding the duplication of efforts and additional administrative burdens, through, inter alia, measurable reductions in reporting and transaction costs for countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States among them,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Environment Management Group in reinforcing the Common Approach to Integrating Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development into United Nations Policy and Programme Planning and Delivery¹⁶³ and its Issue Management Group on Biodiversity;

2. *Also welcomes* the continued work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including through the Bern process, for the effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;¹⁶⁴

3. *Further welcomes* the outcomes of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments;¹⁶⁵

4. *[Welcomes][Notes]* the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction[, ¹⁶⁶ recognizes the importance of ensuring coherence, complementarity and mutual supportiveness between its implementation and the Convention on Biological Diversity,] [and expresses its readiness to strengthen cooperation and mutual supportiveness between the Secretariat of the Convention and the interim Secretariat of the Agreement];

[5. *Welcomes* the global analytical study on the implementation of a human rights-based approach into the goals and targets of the Framework¹⁶⁷ prepared by the United Nations High

¹⁶² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁶³ CEB/2021/1/Add.1.

¹⁶⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁶⁵ See United Nations Environment Assembly resolution [6/4](#).

¹⁶⁶ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

¹⁶⁷ A/HRC/61/36.

Commissioner for Human Rights for the sixty-first session of the Human Rights Council pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 57/28 of 11 October 2024, and encourages Parties and other Governments to make use of the study and take up its key messages, both in national implementation and in all cooperative efforts towards the implementation of the Framework;]

6. [Also welcomes][Notes] the ongoing efforts of, and actions taken by, Parties, the governing bodies and secretariats of the other Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions, chemical and waste-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities, other relevant organizations and stakeholders, including financial institutions and initiatives relevant to thematic sectors, to enhance cooperation in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant frameworks;

7. [Further welcomes][Notes] the collaborative efforts of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and invites the secretariats of the conventions to identify best practices for improving the effectiveness of meetings and to share the findings among relevant secretariats for consideration by their respective governing bodies;

8. [Notes][Welcomes] the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, and invites collaboration between the Panel and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, together with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Science-Policy Interface of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;¹⁶⁸

9. Also welcomes the resolutions and decisions adopted by the governing bodies of other conventions, organizations and programmes in support of the coherent implementation and monitoring of the Framework, including by mainstreaming biodiversity in different sectors;

10. Invites the governing bodies of all relevant conventions, organizations and programmes to continue to adopt mutually supportive decisions and provisions to enhance cooperation and coherence in the development of international policy and the implementation of the Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and accelerate and facilitate action and tangible outcomes in the implementation of, and monitoring of progress with, the Framework at all levels, within their respective mandates;

11. [Placeholder in relation to the outcomes of paragraph 6 of recommendation [27/3](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice];

12. Invites Parties and other Governments to continue to strengthen national cooperation and coordination among the national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, the national focal points of other conventions and processes relevant to the implementation of the Framework and relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the preparation of their national reports, in line with national priorities and circumstances;

[13. Invites Parties to consider opportunities to promote and enhance synergies between the Convention and multilateral agreements in other sectors outside the environment sector[, where appropriate,] [in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibilities principle and recognizing that measures taken to conserve, protect, restore or sustainably use biodiversity, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or disguised restriction on international trade];]

14. Encourages the secretariats of the other Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant organizations to

¹⁶⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

continue to strengthen collaboration, cooperation and coherence in the implementation of, and monitoring of progress with, the Framework, as appropriate and within their respective mandates;

[15. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to build on the Bern process and continue to strengthen cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Framework, including by addressing the outcomes of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue to engage in the Bern process;]

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To further engage in continued collaboration and cooperation with the secretariats of the other Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities and other relevant organizations in supporting the complementarity of efforts in the implementation of [the Convention and] the Framework without prejudice to their respective objectives and mandates;

(b) To seek views from Parties, other Governments, the secretariats of the other Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders on how to assess and track more systematically good practices, improvements to and the results of cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions and organizations;

(c) To undertake, in collaboration with the other members of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, an analysis of overlaps in the frameworks for planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the three conventions and provide options for their enhanced coordination and simplification, as appropriate and within their respective mandates;

[(d) To enhance awareness-raising in alignment with the objectives of the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness on the interconnectedness of the biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and pollution challenges, including by addressing their interrelated direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and the benefits of coordinated responses to those challenges;

(e) To continue collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and make available the tools and guidance on a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the Framework developed by that Office¹⁶⁹ further to the invitation in paragraph 20 of decision [16/35](#);

(f) To collaborate and share relevant information with the Secretariat, including the interim Secretariat, of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, noting the potential important synergies between the Convention and the Agreement;

(g) To report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at meetings held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress made with the activities listed in the present paragraph and on further work undertaken in response to decision [16/35](#);

¹⁶⁹ Available at www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/climatechange/materials/briefing-note-applying-a-human-rights-based-approach-in-line-with-sectionc-kunming-montreal.pdf. The joint publication entitled “Applying a human rights-based approach in line with Section C of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework – A briefing note” of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity does not reflect the views of the Parties or the Conference of the Parties to the Convention or those of the States members of the Human Rights Council. It is a first draft, unedited and subject to further revision and inputs received.

(h) To explore, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and other relevant financial mechanisms and initiatives, such as the Biodiversity Finance Initiative, options for integrated programming and synergistic funding to allow Parties to submit joint projects on biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and pollution;

(i) To continue collaboration with the other members of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions on joint capacity-building activities, including on the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, to promote cooperation and synergies among the three conventions, within their respective mandates.]

Item 14 (a)**Mainstreaming of biodiversity and engagement with subnational governments: mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [7/11](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [16/13](#) of 1 November 2024, in which it reiterated the critical importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across the whole of government and the whole of society and recognized that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁷⁰ captured biodiversity mainstreaming and provided a wide range of options for mainstreaming biodiversity,

[Recalling also its decisions [14/3](#) of 29 November 2018 and [16/17](#) and [16/19](#) of 1 November 2024,*]*

Recognizing that progress on biodiversity mainstreaming remains insufficient to achieve the goals and targets of the Framework and that enhanced efforts are needed to close existing [ambition and implementation] gaps,

Noting that the present decision is complemented by decisions 17/-- on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and 17/-- on further enhancing planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, including the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of inclusive approaches to assess and report progress in biodiversity mainstreaming;
2. *Also recognizes* the importance of strengthening the science-policy interface for biodiversity mainstreaming and facilitating the exchange and uptake of good practices, tools, mechanisms, guidance and other relevant solutions related to biodiversity mainstreaming, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, taking into account national circumstances and priorities;
3. *Further recognizes* the importance of strengthening coordination across sectors and levels of governance, institutional capacity, technical and scientific cooperation, and the mobilization of the resources necessary for the effective integration of biodiversity within and across sectors;
4. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities, capacities and capabilities, to strengthen and accelerate efforts to integrate biodiversity and its multiple values, within and across sectors, in line with the Framework;
5. *[Invites][Also encourages]* Parties [and][, and invites] [other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society organizations, the private and financial sectors and stakeholders from all other sectors][other Governments and actors other than national Governments,¹⁷¹] [organizations including relevant sectoral bodies, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and people with disabilities,] to accelerate the exchange of relevant good practices, tools, mechanisms, guidance and other relevant solutions related to

¹⁷⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁷¹ “Actors other than national Governments” is to be understood as described in para. 26 of decision [15/6](#) and paragraph 3 of decision [16/32](#).

biodiversity mainstreaming, including those arising from relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting initiatives under the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁷² through existing reporting, knowledge-sharing and cooperation mechanisms, including the clearing-house mechanism;

6. *Also invites* Parties, building on experiences, tools, guidance and best practices, including those developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements, organizations and processes, and taking into consideration relevant information from the inputs to and outcomes of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, including national reports, and, as considered relevant by the Parties, [response options identified in recent] assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as appropriate:

[(a) To address the gaps [in national biodiversity strategies and action plans [and national targets] related to mainstreaming][[in terms of ambition] and cover all mainstreaming related elements across the targets of the Framework];]

(b) To strengthen and accelerate the implementation of biodiversity mainstreaming, including by:

- (i) Closing the gap between the integration of biodiversity in regulations or policies and their effective implementation in practice;
- (ii) Strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of relevant authorities, in particular authorities other than those responsible for biodiversity, to build up expertise and strengthen their mandates for biodiversity mainstreaming, including by integrating biodiversity into sectoral planning cycles, budgets, incentives, regulations and private sector disclosure frameworks;
- (iii) Strengthening or establishing interministerial coordination mechanisms to promote coherent and effective actions in support of biodiversity mainstreaming across ministries;
- (iv) Strengthening the engagement of the business sector and the public and private financial sectors at all levels, highlighting nature-related opportunities and the responsibility of businesses to assess, disclose and reduce their risks, dependencies and impacts on nature, [and encouraging] [the uptake of nature-related opportunities] [and nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to increase positive impacts];
- (v) Mainstreaming biodiversity into consumption and production patterns, including through informed consumer choices and sustainable procurement practices in the public and private sectors;
- (vi) Filling data and information gaps;
- (vii) Promoting approaches to biodiversity mainstreaming and raising awareness among policymakers and business actors of the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming, contributing simultaneously to biodiversity conservation, poverty eradication, food security, climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods and human health;

[(c) To accelerate the identification, elimination, phasing out or reforming of incentives harmful to biodiversity and scaling up positive incentives;]

[(d) To [develop and implement national sectoral [transition] plans for aligning][enhance the alignment of][[promote and] align] sectoral action[s] with the [[relevant] goals and targets of the] Framework, [[in particular][including] for sectors with significant impacts and dependencies on biodiversity,] [building on the reference to transition plans in subparagraph 6 (b) of decision [16/13](#)];]

¹⁷² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[(d Alt.) To enhance the alignment of sectoral actions with the relevant goals and targets of the Framework, in particular for sectors with significant dependencies and impacts on biodiversity;]

(e) To invite business and financial institutions to mainstream biodiversity into their business models, operations, value chains and transition plans, as appropriate, in alignment with the goals and targets of the Framework;

(f) To encourage the private and financial sectors and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen and accelerate efforts to integrate biodiversity considerations into their activities, taking into consideration relevant information in the inputs to and outcomes of the global review;

[(g) [To encourage the agricultural, fishery and forestry sectors to ensure that the sustainable use of biodiversity supports conservation and its integration into economic and productive activities][[To enable][To promote] [the integration of biodiversity into economic and productive activities to support its conservation and sustainable use][the sustainable use of biodiversity as a means of supporting its conservation and integration into economic and productive activities][, ensuring that any use of and impacts on biodiversity are [ecologically] sustainable]]];]

[(g Alt.1) To enable the sustainable use of biodiversity as a means of supporting its conservation and integration into economic and productive activities] [in alignment with the Framework][, ensuring that any use of and impacts on biodiversity are [ecologically] sustainable];]

[(g Alt.2) [To encourage the agricultural, fishery and forestry sectors to ensure that the sustainable use of biodiversity [supports conservation and its integration into economic and productive activities][as a means of supporting its conservation and integration into economic and productive activities];]

[(g Alt.3) To enable the integration of biodiversity into economic and productive activities to support its conservation and sustainable use;]

[(g Alt.4) To [encourage][promote][enable] the sustainable use of biodiversity[, where appropriate,] as a means of supporting its conservation [and [enable its][the] [integration [of its multiple values into]][in] economic and productive activities] [and decision-making], [ensuring that any impacts on and the use of biodiversity are [ecologically] sustainable][, in full alignment with the Framework];]

7. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and building upon existing activities and mandates:

(a) Facilitate the exchange of best practices, methodologies, tools, approaches and other relevant solutions related to biodiversity mainstreaming across and within sectors, in a non-prescriptive manner, including [approaches that [promote the sustainable use of biodiversity as a means of supporting its conservation and integration into economic and productive activities][ensure that the management and use of biodiversity is sustainable]] through the clearing-house mechanism, regional and subregional dialogues, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building activities and communities of practice, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, international financial institutions and private sector entities;

(b) Promote the sharing of experiences and lessons learned from relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant sectoral organizations that support biodiversity mainstreaming;

(c) Strengthen the exchange of experiences and solutions, peer learning and collaboration on biodiversity mainstreaming within and across relevant sectors, including by:

(i) Supporting the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity in the convening of regional business and biodiversity forums, in collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders;

- (ii) Continuing to facilitate communities of practice, including through the webinar series launched in 2026, to support the implementation of biodiversity mainstreaming within and across relevant areas and sectors, as appropriate, including the ocean and island economy and other areas and sectors not yet addressed in the series;

[(d) Develop, in collaboration with relevant organizations, capacity-building activities, an updated structured overview of available best practices, tools, mechanisms, guidance and other relevant solutions[, support the uptake of existing technical guidance] [, including [technical guidance][outcomes] from relevant assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services] [and develop technical guidance] to support Parties, in particular developing country Parties, in promoting the integration of biodiversity into the business and financial sectors, in accordance with the goals and targets of the Framework;]

[(d Alt.1) Promote awareness and support the uptake of existing technical guidance to assist Parties in promoting the integration of biodiversity into the business and financial sectors;]

[(d Alt.2) Promote awareness of *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Impact and Dependence of Business on Biodiversity and Nature's Contributions to People* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to enhance its uptake and to facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the business and financial sectors;]

[(d Alt.3) Develop, in collaboration with relevant organizations, capacity-building activities, an updated structure of available best practices, tool, mechanisms, guidance and other relevant solutions and support the uptake of existing technical guidance to assist Parties, in particular developing country Parties, in promoting the integration of biodiversity into the business and financial sectors, in accordance with the goals and targets of the Framework;]

[(d Alt.4) Encourage the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to provide capacity-building and support for biodiversity mainstreaming within and across sectors, in particular the business and financial sectors;]

(e) Submit, at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision that will include information on implementation gaps, enabling approaches, best practices and lessons learned, the needs identified by Parties concerning mainstreaming-related capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and financial resources[, and an updated structured overview of available best practices, tools, mechanisms, guidance and other solutions].

Item 14 (b)

Mainstreaming of biodiversity and engagement with subnational governments: engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [7/8](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [15/12](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/13](#) of 1 November 2024,

Recognizing the importance of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in translating national biodiversity commitments into local action in support of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁷³ and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁷⁴

1. *Welcomes* [the executive summary¹⁷⁵ of the report of] the review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework^[176] and the contributions of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and to the implementation of the plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity (2023–2030)¹⁷⁷ and the Framework;

2. *Notes* the contributions of Parties, other Governments, financial institutions and relevant organizations, and encourages them to continue to strengthen coordination mechanisms, dialogue, cooperation and engagement within and across all levels of government[, including, where applicable, indigenous subnational governments, in accordance with their own governance systems,] and provide adequate and predictable financial resources and technical support to enable capacity-building and development, [in line with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,] peer learning and information- and knowledge-sharing activities, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders[, in accordance with national legislation,] for the further implementation of the plan of action, the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework, taking into consideration relevant information in national reports[, submissions from actors other than national Governments] [that are validated by their respective national Governments] and the global review, including the related global report [and the findings of the Kunming dialogue on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework in support of the global review], as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

3. *Encourages* Parties, and invites relevant organizations, to consider including in future planning and assessment activities aimed at strengthening coordination, cooperation and

¹⁷³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁷⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁷⁵ [CBD/SBI/7/9](#), annex.

^[176] [CBD/COP/17/INF/14](#), annex.]

¹⁷⁷ Decision [15/12](#), annex.

participation across all levels of government examples of governance systems, territorial planning and monitoring at the subnational, city and local levels, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate;

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and to continue to support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, as well as customary, traditional and community institutions, as and where appropriate, [in improving the implementation of the Framework, including] by strengthening their technical, institutional and financial capacities to enhance native biodiversity in urban and densely populated rural areas through, inter alia, spatial planning, urban and rural biodiversity management, the restoration of ecosystems and ecological connectivity, and environmental monitoring and reporting;

5. *Invites* Parties to continue efforts to facilitate the development of awareness-raising programmes, in particular on the conservation and sustainable use of urban biodiversity, in line with the Convention and national communication, education and public awareness strategies;

6. *Also invites* Parties to engage with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, as well as customary, traditional and community institutions, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and legislation, in support of the implementation of the plan of action and the Framework[, and to recognize, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and legislation, indigenous peoples and local communities as local authorities];

7. *Encourages* Parties, as appropriate and in [line][accordance] with national circumstances, legislation and priorities, to integrate [local priorities] arising from participatory processes into the development, implementation, monitoring and review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, taking into consideration the contributions of [actors other than national Governments, in particular] [indigenous peoples and local communities, [women], youth][and relevant stakeholders,] [and gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches];

8. *Also encourages* Parties to strengthen, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, the integration of relevant contributions of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities into national planning, monitoring, reporting and review processes, in order to improve the visibility of implementation efforts within and across all levels of government;

9. *Further encourages* Parties, subject to national circumstances and priorities, to support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in developing local biodiversity strategies and action plans in order to localize biodiversity commitments, strengthening coherence among global, national and local priorities;

10. *Encourages* subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to strengthen the collection and reporting of relevant biodiversity data and information on the implementation of the Framework[, including, where appropriate, data and information on the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth];

[11. *Also encourages* subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to engage in mechanisms and platforms supporting the implementation of the Framework and decision [15/12](#), including the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity, the Advisory Committee on Local Governments and Biodiversity and the Global Partnership on Subnational and Local Governments for Biodiversity, in accordance with decision [X/22](#) of 29 October 2010;]

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to develop, in cooperation with partner organizations, guidance to facilitate capacity-building and development activities for facilitating the integration of contributions of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to the implementation of the Framework into national planning, monitoring reporting and review mechanisms;

[(b) To compile information, as appropriate, on the extent to which biodiversity finance reaches subnational governments, cities and other local community levels, including information on access to funding by local authorities[, barriers to access to funding and opportunities to strengthen direct and equitable financing mechanisms] for local implementation;]

[(c) To undertake a review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, including specific analysis of the case studies on the contributions of, in particular, least developed countries and small island developing States, [indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth][and actors other than national Governments];]

(d) To provide a progress report on the activities referred to in subparagraph[s] 12 (a) [to (c)] above as an information document for a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 15

Gender Plan of Action

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [6/4](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Midterm review of the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the findings of the midterm review of the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030),¹⁷⁸ including identified progress, lessons learned and remaining gaps, submitted at the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;¹⁷⁹
2. *Recognizes* the role of the Gender Plan of Action as the primary instrument to support the gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁸⁰ in particular its Target 23, and its links with Target 22 and section C of the Framework;
3. *Reiterates* paragraph 2 of decision [15/11](#) of 19 December 2022, and encourages the further implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, in line with section C of the Framework, in particular by:
 - (a) Ensuring the effective implementation of gender-responsive approaches across all biodiversity-related policies, strategies, plans and actions at all levels, including through the consideration of such approaches in revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
 - (b) Ensuring the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation of women and girls and the leadership of women, in particular among indigenous peoples and local communities, in biodiversity-related decision-making at all levels;
 - (c) Enhancing efforts to generate, use and report data disaggregated by sex, age and other demographic factors and gender indicators, where possible, in line with paragraph 4 of decision [15/11](#), to support the monitoring of and the evaluation of progress with the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action;
 - (d) Promoting the allocation of adequate human and financial resources and strengthening institutional capacity for a rights-based gender-responsive implementation of the Plan of Action, including through targeted support for women-led initiatives, especially among indigenous peoples and local communities;
4. *Encourages* Parties to implement the Gender Plan of Action in all aspects and on all scales of planning, monitoring, reporting and review related to the Framework, in line with paragraph 4 of decision [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, and to use component indicator 23.CT.2¹⁸¹ in the national implementation of the Plan;
5. *Invites* relevant international financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to support gender-responsive biodiversity actions and improve processes related to access to funding, including through simplified access modalities, for women-led initiatives, including from indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with their respective mandates;

¹⁷⁸ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

¹⁷⁹ See [CBD/SBI/6/5](#).

¹⁸⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁸¹ See decision [16/31](#), annex II.

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to support Parties, in particular developing country Parties, in the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, including through technical guidance, capacity-building and knowledge exchange, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, in collaboration with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(b) To organize capacity-building activities, including online and in-person workshops, inter alia, to facilitate the engagement of and collaboration with women's organizations and networks, taking into account cost-effectiveness and prioritizing the technical gaps identified in the midterm review;

(c) To undertake a final review of the Gender Plan of Action by identifying progress in the implementation of each objective and indicative action identified therein, as well as lessons learned and next steps, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 16

Synthetic biology

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [28/3](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and recommendation [7/7](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Synthetic biology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 8(j), 11, 12, 16, 18, 19 and 20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁸² and their [possible] relevance to the use and application of synthetic biology, as well as to the implementation of the thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,^{183, 184}

Recalling also decisions [14/19](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/31](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/21](#) of 1 November 2024,

Recalling further its decisions [15/8](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/21](#) of 1 November 2024,

1. *Notes with appreciation the outcomes of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology[, and notes that the Group identified the need for further work to strengthen methodologies and scientific approaches for assessing the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology in relation to the objectives of the Convention, as set out in its report];¹⁸⁵*

[2. *Notes that there is a lack of clear mechanism or methodology for identifying the most recent technological developments and assessing their impacts on biodiversity;*]

3. *Also notes the current and potential benefits of synthetic biology in relation to the targets of the Framework, as set out in annexes II and III to the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, respectively, recognizing that the examples therein are illustrative and not a result of an assessment by the Expert Group;*

4. *Further notes the preliminary work on the potential positive and potential negative impacts of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology;¹⁸⁶*

[5. *[Reminds][Urges] Parties to take a precautionary¹⁸⁷ [and science-based approach] with respect to research and development, innovation, environmental releases and use of synthetic biology applications in the context of the Convention;*]

[6. *Recognizes the importance of anticipatory approaches, including horizon scanning and monitoring mechanisms, in supporting the timely identification and assessment of potential positive and potential negative impacts of future developments in synthetic biology;*]

¹⁸² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁸³ The thematic action plan will be included in annex I to the present decision once consolidated with the elements of the draft decision set out in recommendation 28/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

¹⁸⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁸⁵ [CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2026/1/3](#).

¹⁸⁶ See [CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2026/1/2](#), annex II.

¹⁸⁷ As provided in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

I

Thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

[7. *[Adopts][Takes note of]* the [voluntary] thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as contained in annex I to the present decision, as a non-duplicative and complementary tool aimed at supporting Parties in accordance with their national priorities and circumstances[, while recognizing the need for the broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology];]

8. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make use of the thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[, including its Target 17, on mutually agreed terms, where applicable] [, on a voluntary basis,] in accordance with national priorities and circumstances [and in line with the precautionary approach for the environmental release of the applications of synthetic biology];

9. *Invites* the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁸⁸ and the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization¹⁸⁹[, including in relation to digital sequence information on genetic resources,] to use the thematic action plan without duplicating, and in a manner that is complementary to and coordinated with, the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol¹⁹⁰ and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol;¹⁹¹

10. *Invites* Parties to consider, as appropriate, the actions contained in the thematic action plan in the development, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as in relevant sectoral policies, strategies and plans, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

11. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, with their free, prior and informed consent,¹⁹² in the implementation of the thematic action plan, in accordance with national legislation;

12. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia, research institutions and other relevant organizations to consider, as appropriate, other complementary frameworks and guidelines when planning activities to implement the thematic action plan;¹⁹³

13. *Invites* Parties and regional organizations, as appropriate, to assess capacities and identify needs and priorities, [including for strengthening national capacities for horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment,] in line with the indicative strategic actions set out under output 1.1 of

¹⁸⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

¹⁹⁰ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

¹⁹¹ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

¹⁹² All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

¹⁹³ Examples of other complementary frameworks and guidelines are provided in section V of the thematic action plan.

the thematic action plan, in order to support the adaptation and implementation of the thematic action plan, in accordance with national and regional circumstances and priorities;

14. *Invites* Parties to share, as appropriate, their needs and priorities with regard to the implementation of the thematic action plan with the regional and subregional support centres of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism,¹⁹⁴ to complement the implementation of the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol;

15. *Invites* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to facilitate the implementation of the thematic action plan, as appropriate;

16. *Encourages* developed country Parties, and invites Parties in a position to do so, other Governments and relevant organizations, to make financial, technical and in-kind resources available to support the implementation of the thematic action plan, especially for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and country Parties with economies in transition, in line with Articles 16, 18 and 20 of the Convention;

[17. [*Invites*][*Requests*] the Global Environment Facility, and invites other donors, to make available new, additional, [adequate,] predictable, easily accessible[, sustainable] and timely financial resources to Parties, especially developing country Parties, to support the implementation of the thematic action plan, in accordance with national needs and priorities, including for strengthening national capacities for horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment, environmental risk assessment, risk management and regulatory oversight;]

[18. *Encourages* Parties to submit to the Global Environment Facility and other donors project proposals to support the implementation of the thematic action plan, including on the identification of needs and priorities and the national and regional adaptation of the plan;¹⁹⁵]

19. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia, research institutions and other stakeholders to share, on a voluntary basis and through the clearing-house mechanisms, information on the implementation of the thematic action plan complementary to that on the implementation of the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol;

20. *Encourages* Parties, international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation on synthetic biology, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, to support the implementation of the thematic action plan;

21. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary information on national and regional experiences, best practices and lessons learned with regard to capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology;

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To create a compilation of the national and regional experiences, best practices and lessons learned referred to in paragraph 21 above as a resource to support the implementation of the thematic action plan;

(b) To enhance the section on the thematic action plan on the Secretariat website¹⁹⁶ with the information referred to in paragraphs 19, 21 and 22 (a) above, with a view to promoting capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing relevant to the implementation of the thematic action plan;

¹⁹⁴ See decision 16/3, annex I.

¹⁹⁵ See output 1.1 of the thematic action plan.

¹⁹⁶ See www.cbd.int/synbio.

(c) To facilitate capacity-building and development and knowledge-sharing activities, in particular for developing countries, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in order to facilitate the implementation of the thematic action plan;

[(d) To develop a [voluntary monitoring mechanism for tracking][mechanism to monitor on a voluntary basis] the implementation of the thematic action plan[, including, where appropriate, by considering biosafety, biosecurity, environmental risk assessment, regulatory considerations and broader environmental and socioeconomic implications].]

II

New technological developments in synthetic biology

[23. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group on synthetic biology, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present decision, to further address the areas of [artificial intelligence and computational biology] [convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology] [and] [applications for conservation use][development of methodologies to assess the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications] in the context of the Convention and the Framework;]

[23.Alt. *Notes* the outcomes of the work undertaken on synthetic biology pursuant to decisions [14/19](#), [15/31](#) and [16/21](#), and decides that, at the present time, the establishment of a new ad hoc technical expert group on synthetic biology is not necessary;]

[

24. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, academia, research institutions and other relevant organizations to submit information on [artificial intelligence and computational biology][the convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology], [applications for conservation use] and [the development of methodologies to assess the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications] [to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group];

25. *Decides* to convene discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology to gather information related to [artificial intelligence and computational biology][the convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology], [applications for conservation use] and [the development of methodologies to assess the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications] [to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group];

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To synthesize the information on synthetic biology submitted pursuant to paragraph 24 above and the discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum referred to in paragraph 25 above [to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group];

[(b) To convene at least one in-person meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group before a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

(c) To support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work related to synthetic biology undertaken under the Convention, in accordance with decision [X/40](#) of 29 October 2010;

(d) To support further the participation of women and youth organizations, academia and research institutions in the work related to synthetic biology undertaken under the Convention;

[27. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the outcomes of [the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group][the synthesis requested under

subparagraph 26 (a) above], with a view to submitting a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;]

]

III

Synthesis and review of work relevant to synthetic biology conducted under the Convention and its Protocols

28. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To prepare a draft stocktake report containing a consolidation, synthesis and review of the work and processes related to synthetic biology undertaken under the Convention and its Protocols since 2010, with a view to:

(i) Identifying gaps, overlaps, duplication and complementarities with existing processes under the Convention and its Protocols;

(ii) Mapping the scope and mandate of other relevant international organizations and entities¹⁹⁷ working on synthetic biology in relation to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) To submit the draft stocktake report for peer review in time for finalization and consideration at the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice preceding the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties;

(c) To submit the stocktake report at the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice preceding the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties;

[29. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the stocktake report and prepare a draft recommendation on options for future work on synthetic biology under the Convention for consideration at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

[29.Alt. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the stocktake report and prepare a draft recommendation on options for a coherent, scientifically robust and effective approach to the work on synthetic biology conducted under the Convention, ensuring that any such approach adequately addresses unresolved and emerging issues relevant to the three objectives of the Convention, for consideration at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

Annex I

Thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

I. Introduction

1. The thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology is designed to meet the needs and priorities of Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in order to

¹⁹⁷ E.g. the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Health Organization, the International Gene Synthesis Consortium and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

implement the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁹⁸ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁹⁹ in the context of synthetic biology.²⁰⁰

2. In accordance with decision [16/21](#) of 1 November 2024, the thematic action plan has been developed taking the following into account:

(a) The specific needs of Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities,²⁰¹ to complement the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;^{202,203}

(b) The identification of areas where capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing are needed for research and development and for assessments in the field of synthetic biology;

(c) Strategies to facilitate the equitable participation of developing country Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia, the business sector and relevant institutions in research and development in the field of synthetic biology;

(d) Strategies to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from synthetic biology, in line with Articles 16 and 19 of the Convention and with the Framework;

(e) Mechanisms for technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and international technical and scientific cooperation to foster innovation, in line with Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention and with the Framework.

II. Structure

3. The table below contains the outcome areas and indicative strategic actions of the thematic action plan. The three outcome areas are:

(a) Strengthened capacity for research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology;

(b) Improved access to and transfer of technology relevant to synthetic biology;

(c) Enhanced knowledge-sharing on synthetic biology, including its development, assessment, governance and regulation.

4. Strategies to facilitate equitable participation in the field of synthetic biology; strategies to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from synthetic biology, in line with Articles 16 and 19 of the Convention; and mechanisms for technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and international technical and scientific cooperation to foster innovation, in line with Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention, have been integrated into the three outcome areas.

5. Where relevant, and to avoid duplication, the thematic action plan includes references to the other action plans developed under the Convention and its Protocols, in addition to relevant documents and resources developed by other intergovernmental organizations.

III. Linkage to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and existing plans

6. The thematic action plan is developed to support Parties and other stakeholders in achieving, in the context of synthetic biology, the three objectives of the Convention, namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the

¹⁹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁹⁹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁰⁰ Synthetic biology is operationally defined in decision [XIII/17](#) as a further development and new dimension of modern biotechnology that combines science, technology and engineering to facilitate and accelerate the understanding, design, redesign, manufacture and/or modification of genetic materials, living organisms and biological systems.

²⁰¹ As identified further to notifications Nos. [2025-065](#) and [2025-088](#).

²⁰² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

²⁰³ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The plan could therefore help to minimize the potential adverse impacts on biological diversity (Articles 7 (c), 8 (g) and 14 of the Convention), while also facilitating access to and transfer of technology, scientific and technical cooperation and the distribution of benefits arising from biotechnology based upon genetic resources (Articles 16, 18 and 19). The plan can also contribute to the implementation of the goals and targets of the Framework, specifically Targets 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23, where applicable and as a complement to other actions that may contribute to their achievement.

7. In addition, the thematic action plan is complementary to the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.^{204,205} The implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol can also support and guide Parties in addressing elements related to biosafety.

IV. Use of the thematic action plan

8. The thematic action plan can be used by any actors. The suggested actions are voluntary and will vary according to national circumstances, priorities and needs, as well as the role of the actors involved. Actions should be taken in line with the guiding principles listed in section V below.

9. To ensure effective implementation, a phased approach is recommended, starting with the identification of needs and priorities related to research and development, access to and transfer of technology, regulation, assessment, monitoring and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology that are relevant to the implementation of the Convention and the Framework. According to national and organizational circumstances, activities can then be prioritized to address the identified needs (see outcome area 1, output 1.1).

10. The implementation of any relevant elements of the thematic action plan should be considered in the light of existing capacity-building and development activities, access to and transfer of technology initiatives and knowledge-sharing endeavours related to biosafety, access and benefit-sharing and the Framework implementation mechanisms, with the goal to avoid duplication.

[11. The suggested actions may be further prioritized or updated to address gaps in capacity in the light of future developments in the field of synthetic biology, as needed [and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities]. Such developments may be identified[, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources,] through [information-sharing,] [coordinated] [[broad and regular] horizon scanning and foresight activities], and engagement with experts, as necessary.]

V. Guiding principles

12. The thematic action plan is aimed at contributing to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework. Thus, all indicated actions should be taken in the context of the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework.

13. In line with decision [16/21](#), the general principles and strategies for enhancing capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and knowledge-sharing of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development should apply to the thematic action plan and be taken into consideration when planning activities.²⁰⁶

14. When using the thematic action plan, actors should:

- (a) Take a precautionary approach, as provided in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;
- (b) Adopt a science-based and case-by-case approach;

²⁰⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

²⁰⁵ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

²⁰⁶ See decision [15/8](#), annex I, paras. 8 and 9.

- (c) Take a needs-based approach in line with national priorities and circumstances;
- (d) Consider the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications on the three objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework;
- (e) Consider the potential impacts [and risks] in relation to the intended use and the likely potential receiving environment [(e.g. unmanaged or wild settings; semi-managed, managed or urban settings; and contained settings);²⁰⁷]
- (f) Take a multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary or interdisciplinary approach to research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology;
- (g) Recognize the diverse values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity, the environment and ecosystem services;²⁰⁸
- (h) Recognize and respect diverse knowledge systems and gender-specific elements in accordance with national legislation;
- (i) Recognize and respect traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;
- (j) Foster a whole-of-society approach that ensures the full, effective and meaningful participation of all actors, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;
- (k) Ensure the free, prior and informed consent²⁰⁹ of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;
- (l) Promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;²¹⁰
- (m) Support international and regional scientific and technical cooperation to strengthen activities related to research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology in the context of the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework;
- (n) Take a coordinated, non-duplicative and complementary approach with respect to synthetic biology and other related fields;²¹¹
- [(o) Recognize and respect the diverse ethical, religious and cultural values of societies.]

15. As appropriate, other principles, frameworks and guidelines containing complementary actions can be taken into account when planning activities and considering the use of synthetic biology in the context of the Convention and the Framework.²¹²

²⁰⁷ See [CBD Technical Series No. 100](#).

²⁰⁸ See *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

²⁰⁹ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

²¹⁰ In line with Article 2 of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

²¹¹ Including by building on the work conducted under the Protocols to the Convention and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as appropriate.

²¹² E.g. the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol, the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines, the Mo’otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines, the plan of action on customary sustainable use of biological diversity, the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization recommendation on Open Science, the World Health Organization global guidance framework for the responsible use of life sciences, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Science and Innovation Strategy and its corresponding action plan, the International Union for Conservation of Nature policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation (8.086), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development framework for anticipatory governance of emerging technologies and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development agile mechanisms for responsible technology development.

VI. Means of implementation

16. Making adequate and predictable resources available in a timely manner is crucial for the effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the Framework in the context of synthetic biology. Thus, there is a need to mobilize resources from all sources, including those in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and to identify and select the financial resources that will support the thematic action plan. Such resource mobilization should be needs-based and accessible, in line with national circumstances and priorities and aimed at supporting the implementation of the Convention and the Framework. Particular consideration should be given to the least developed countries, small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, as well as the most environmentally vulnerable countries, in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 20 of the Convention.

17. The thematic action plan can be used as a reference for guiding the development of programmatic directions for the financial mechanism of the Convention and its Protocols (the Global Environmental Facility and its Global Biodiversity Framework Fund), as well as the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, regional initiatives, other funds and donors.

18. National Governments are also invited to incorporate dedicated funding in their national finance plans or other similar planning instruments in the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in accordance with national priorities and capacities (see also output 1.1).

19. The implementation of the thematic action plan should be needs-driven, and financial, technical and institutional support should be provided, in accordance with national priorities, circumstances, needs and legislation, as appropriate.

VII. Role of the Secretariat and of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres

20. While the thematic action plan is directed to national Governments and relevant stakeholders, the Secretariat of the Convention will support Parties in their efforts in implementing the plan, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention. Its support can include undertaking activities in response to requests from the Conference of the Parties, including gathering, synthesizing and sharing information through the clearing-house mechanisms and facilitating capacity-building activities.

21. The regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres forming part of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism established by decision [15/8](#) and operationalized in decision [16/3](#) can support Parties, upon request, with identifying gaps in scientific capacity, supporting technology transfer and innovation, facilitating scientific and technical cooperation and assisting with knowledge-sharing activities when implementing the thematic action plan.

22. To monitor the implementation of the thematic action plan, the Secretariat may request the voluntary submission of information to complement relevant information from other possible sources, including national reports requested under the Convention and its Protocols, as necessary.

VIII. Monitoring and reporting on progress in the implementation of the thematic action plan

23. The monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the thematic action plan will be conducted in conjunction with the monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism.

24. The thematic action plan may be reviewed, as necessary, upon request of the Conference of the Parties in the light of experiences in using the plan and of new developments in the field of synthetic biology.

Outcome areas and indicative strategic actions to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Outcome area 1: strengthened capacity for research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology Objective: actors have improved capacity and infrastructure for undertaking research and development, [responsible innovation], assessment[, monitoring, governance and regulatory] oversight of synthetic biology applications that are relevant to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicative strategic actions</i>
1.1 Identification of needs and priorities	(a) Assess capacities and identify needs related to research and development, access and transfer of technology, regulation, assessment, monitoring and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology; (b) Prioritize activities for short-, medium- and long-term action on the basis of identified needs and national circumstances; (c) Integrate synthetic biology research and development and assessment needs into various sectoral budget plans, and identify capacity-building and development needs.
1.2 Strengthened physical infrastructure	(a) Establish, strengthen or provide access to technical laboratory infrastructure, while taking biosafety and biosecurity into account; ²¹³ (b) Develop governance mechanisms, technical support and sustainability models to ensure long-term functionality and equitable use of laboratory infrastructure; (c) Develop in silico infrastructure; ²¹⁴ (d) Establish or strengthen laboratories at the national, subregional or regional level; (e) Promote continued and sustainable financing for the maintenance of infrastructure and the procurement of reagents and materials; (f) Integrate physical and digital biosecurity protocols and cyberbiosecurity protocols into the design, operation and maintenance of laboratory and in silico infrastructure.
1.3 Support for personnel capacity	(a) Institutionalize capacity-building and development processes and ensure continued capacity-building through global, regional and national institutions, including for assessment and monitoring[, regulation and governance]; (b) Provide scholarships, internships and mentorships at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels for areas related to research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology, in particular for students and women from developing countries and indigenous peoples and local communities; (c) Support the development or use of existing exchange programmes as mechanisms to build capacity, transfer knowledge and promote sustained communication and collaboration across relevant stakeholders; (d) Develop interdisciplinary training programmes for research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology, including for assessment and monitoring, in national or regional universities and on e-learning platforms, including specialized courses for regulators and decision makers; (e) Foster the training of members of indigenous peoples and local communities in research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology in locally relevant languages and in line with their self-determined needs and priorities.

²¹³ Where needed to complement infrastructure supported under the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, for Parties to those respective instruments.

²¹⁴ For example, computational facilities for data processing, computer-aided design, modelling, bioinformatics and artificial intelligence; software; and servers.

1.4 Development of capacity for local research and development	(a) Develop national or regional road maps for research and development [and responsible innovation] in synthetic biology, including through convening national or regional workshops; [(b) Support international standardization within the field of synthetic biology;²¹⁵] (c) Establish regional and international centres of excellence, networks of laboratories or research consortiums, in particular in developing countries, for activities conducted in the field of synthetic biology; (d) Strengthen research on local genetic resources, including through the provision of grants for local research.
1.5 Enhanced assessment capacity	[(a) For Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,²¹⁶ use associated actions under Goals A.5 and A.9 of the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol²¹⁷ for synthetic biology applications considered to be living modified organisms;] [(b) [Introduce, use or] strengthen existing national and international procedures, where appropriate, for the environmental impact assessment of components, organisms and products of synthetic biology that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity, in line with Article 14 of the Convention and avoiding the creation of duplicative regulatory processes;] (c) Ensure public participation and engagement with a diverse range of experts, including from indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia and other relevant stakeholders, in the assessment of synthetic biology applications; (d) Fund and strengthen research programmes to improve assessment and monitoring capacity for the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology; [(e) Undertake broad and regular horizon scanning, assessment and monitoring to identify recent developments in synthetic biology with potential positive and potential negative impacts on the objectives of the Convention;] [(f) Develop tools and methodologies to assess the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology on the objectives of the Convention and the Framework;] (g) Develop science-based standards to assess and ensure the reliability of biocontainment systems, in accordance with national legislation.
Outcome area 2: improved access to and transfer of technology relevant to synthetic biology Objective: access to and the transfer of technology are essential for the attainment of the three objectives of the Convention and the Framework. Thus, the objective of outcome area 2 is to ensure access to synthetic biology technology that is relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and does not result in significant damage to the environment, and to create enabling environments that facilitate the transfer of such technology, in line with Articles 16 and 19 of the Convention	
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicative strategic actions</i>
2.1. Increased access to and transfer of technology	(a) Establish public-private, public-private-academic and academic-private partnerships on technology relevant to research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology; (b) Develop and maintain an accessible database of tools and methodologies for detection, identification and assessment; (c) Encourage the development and use of open-source tools, low-cost technology platforms and distributed manufacturing models; (d) Invest in and strengthen supply chains, including through cold-chain facilities, national and regional manufacturing and diversified suppliers; (e) Facilitate the import processes for research supplies; (f) Promote and facilitate the sharing of facilities in line with national needs and priorities;

²¹⁵ Such as that carried out by the International Gene Synthesis Consortium, the Synthetic Biology Open Language, the International Biosecurity and Biosafety Initiative for Science, the Synthetic Biology Standards Consortium, the iGEM Registry of Biological Parts and the Engineering Biology Research Consortium.

²¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

²¹⁷ Goal A.5: Parties carry out scientifically sound risk assessments of living modified organisms and manage and control identified risks to prevent adverse effects of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity taking also into account risks to human health; Goal A.9: Parties that choose to do so take into account socioeconomic considerations when making decisions on the import of living modified organisms and cooperate on research and information exchange in accordance with Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol (decision [CP-10/4](#), annex).

	(g) Encourage the use of exchange programmes and organize matchmaking events and technology fairs to support the establishment of links among technology providers, regulators, assessors and potential users, including at the regional level; (h) Develop tools and guidance for access to and the transfer of synthetic biology technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources, do not result in significant damage to the environment and are adapted to local economic, social and cultural contexts; (i) Encourage voluntary licensing arrangements on mutually agreed terms for indigenous peoples and local communities; (j) Encourage voluntary reduced licensing rates and transfer of technical knowledge for use in local innovation and non-commercial research in developing countries.
2.2. Establishment of robust regulatory environments aligned with existing regulation	[(a) Establish, maintain and further develop functional biosafety frameworks, which for Parties to the Cartagena Protocol should be in accordance with Goal A.1 of the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol;²¹⁸ (b) Review biosafety regulatory frameworks to identify any potential gaps related to synthetic biology and update biosafety systems to address such gaps, as necessary; (c) Establish national coordination mechanisms for activities related to synthetic biology; (d) Promote the use of guidelines to strengthen the governance of synthetic biology aligned with national needs, priorities and existing regulation; (e) Encourage North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, including through the exchange of scientific knowledge, technical expertise, regulatory experience and best practices related to synthetic biology, while respecting national legislation, national circumstances and the sovereign right of Parties to establish and implement their own regulatory frameworks; (f) Promote measures to respect, preserve and maintain the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant to synthetic biology to ensure that their access and use are obtained only with the free, prior and informed consent²¹⁹ of the indigenous peoples and local communities concerned and that benefits arising from their utilization are shared in a fair and equitable manner, in accordance with relevant intellectual property frameworks.]
2.3. Strengthened access and benefit-sharing from synthetic biology technology	[(a) For Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,²²⁰ use the capacity-building and development action plan for the Protocol²²¹ to strengthen access and benefit-sharing systems; (b) Mobilize financial resources from beneficiaries of synthetic biology technology to enable developing countries to participate in research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology; (c) Encourage equitable and inclusive non-monetary benefit-sharing, in particular for developing countries and indigenous peoples and local communities; (d) Include reciprocity and co-benefit clauses in public-private, public-academic and other partnership or licensing agreements; (e) Develop appropriate tools and mechanisms to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from research and development in and the application of synthetic biology technology.]

²¹⁸ Goal A.1: Parties have in place functional national biosafety frameworks (decision [CP-10/4](#), annex).

²¹⁹ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

²²⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

²²¹ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

Outcome area 3: enhanced knowledge-sharing on synthetic biology, including its development, assessment, governance and regulation Objective: knowledge relevant to synthetic biology research, development, assessment, governance and regulation is shared widely, in line with Article 17 of the Convention, and made available for use by all actors for research and development in and the assessment, governance and regulation of synthetic biology	
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicative strategic actions</i>
3.1. Improved access to scientific knowledge	(a) Promote the publication of open access scientific articles in the field of synthetic biology [and in areas related to its assessment, governance and regulation] [while respecting national legislation on the protection of confidential information and sovereignty over genetic resources]; [(b) Promote the publication of relevant information in public databases in line with the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR principles) and of collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE principles); (c) Encourage capacity-building on data stewardship, data curation and long-term data management, including or improving transparency, metadata standards and the handling of confidential information; (d) Promote the sharing of scientific and technical knowledge related to synthetic biology and its assessment, including through the clearing-house mechanisms of the Convention and its Protocols; (e) Support facilitated access to scientific journals and technical databases for researchers and students from developing countries; (f) Establish synthetic biology information hubs to improve access to relevant information.]
3.2. Establishment of knowledge-sharing initiatives and mechanisms	[(a) Convene national, regional and international knowledge-sharing events on synthetic biology and related areas, including regulatory aspects, assessment and oversight, and promote participation in relevant regional and international gatherings, in particular for developing countries; (b) Support the participation of researchers and students in dedicated competitions; (c) Establish knowledge-sharing and cooperation agreements among institutions and promote participation in international or regional research networks; (d) Provide international scholarships and internships for knowledge-sharing initiatives on synthetic biology, in particular for developing countries, women and youth; (e) Facilitate the participation of researchers from developing countries and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in international knowledge-sharing events; (f) Encourage regulatory exchanges among countries with developed regulatory systems and those with developing regulatory systems; (g) Promote knowledge-sharing activities that are inclusive of all relevant rights holders and stakeholders; (h) Promote regional, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on synthetic biology and ecological research.]
3.3. Expanded communication and outreach	[(a) Encourage the publication of technical materials and scientific publications in local languages; (b) Support the development of risk communication, biosecurity, ethics and access and benefit-sharing modules in local languages, co-developed with stakeholders; (c) Facilitate public awareness through the use of a variety of media and of local languages; (d) Conduct dialogues and awareness campaigns that are accessible, multilingual and adapted to diverse audiences, including the general public, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth; (e) Hold dedicated forums and public consultations with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society organizations, women, youth, regulators and the scientific community; (f) Promote the organization of public research discovery days in universities to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge related to synthetic biology and its potential impacts; (g) Establish a community of practice for dialogues between regulators and scientists in synthetic biology to identify emerging issues for regulatory oversight.]
3.4. Promotion of inclusive	[(a) Prioritize intercultural dialogues in knowledge construction through mechanisms that respect and integrate diverse knowledge systems, languages and transmission modes, while ensuring effective participation based on free, prior and informed consent,

knowledge-sharing	culturally appropriate engagement and respect for traditional knowledge and gender perspectives; (b) Foster two-way learning between scientific institutions and indigenous peoples and local communities.]
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Annex II

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology shall be convened in compliance with section H of the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice²²² [with membership expanded to [four] experts by region]. [The selection of experts is to be conducted ensuring geographical and gender balance, as well as a balanced representation of expertise in research and development, innovation, biosafety, risk assessment, regulation, capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and scientific and technical cooperation, [with particular attention to][including] expertise from developing country Parties.]

[2. Experts should be selected on the basis of topics to be addressed, while ensuring appropriate representation of the multidisciplinary fields of expertise relevant to synthetic biology.]

3. The procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups set out in the annex to decision [14/33](#) of 29 November 2018, as amended in decision [16/26](#) of 1 November 2024, shall apply to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group is to:

[(a) Develop and apply a transparent, structured and scientifically robust methodology for assessing the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology, building on previous work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity²²³ and its Protocols. The methodology could, as appropriate:

- (i) Assess the quality, relevance and limitations of the available information and evidence;
- (ii) Identify appropriate baselines and comparators;
- (iii) Consider the cumulative and long-term impacts, irreversibility and distribution of potential impacts and uncertainties;
- (iv) Take into account the intended use;]

[(b) Assess, using the methodology referred to in subparagraph 4 (a) above, the potential positive and the potential negative impacts of [synthetic biology, including][placeholder for one subject only][artificial intelligence and computational biology][the convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology] and [applications for conservation use] on the objectives of the Convention and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²²⁴ including biosafety, economic, social, ecological, cultural, traditional, religious and ethical considerations;]

[(c) Review the methodology for horizon scanning, as provided in annex IV to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/4](#), with a view to its continued application to emerging trends and issues in synthetic biology;]

²²² Decision [VIII/10](#), annex III.

²²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²²⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

(d) Prepare a report on the outcomes of its work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall take into consideration the particular needs and priorities of [Parties, including] developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States[, and Parties with economies in transition and megadiverse countries].

6. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall build on previous work conducted under the Convention and its Protocols, while ensuring a coordinated, complementary and non-duplicative approach.

7. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall work on the basis of the synthesis prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to subparagraph 26 (a) of the present decision and, as necessary, other relevant scientific and technical information.

8. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall, as appropriate, take into account the work of other international organizations in relation to the areas of [synthetic biology][artificial intelligence and computation biology][convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology], and [applications for conservation use].

]

Item 17 (a)**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity in the context of the Framework**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [27/4](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention in the context of the Framework

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The Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging the contribution of the existing thematic programmes of work since their establishment to the implementation of and work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity²²⁵ and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat,

Recalling its decision [15/4](#) of 19 December 2022, in which it decided that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²²⁶ should be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat over the period 2022–2030 and that, in that regard, the Framework should be used to better align and direct the work of the various bodies of the Convention and its Protocols, its Secretariat and its budget according to the goals and targets of the Framework, and it requested the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention in the context of the Framework, to facilitate its implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the strategic review and analysis of all areas of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely, the thematic programmes of work formally established under the Convention, programmes addressing cross-cutting issues and other areas of work under the Convention in the context of the Framework, as contained in documents [CBD/SBSTTA/27/5/Add.1](#) and [CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/6](#);

[2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the evaluation methodology for the programmes of work under the Convention contained in the annex to the present decision, prepared by the Executive Secretary, and notes its potential for future use in the review of the work undertaken under the Convention;]

3. *Recognizes* that some of the programmes of work [and] [other areas of work][cross-cutting issues] under the Convention have been updated since its fifteenth meeting and that sufficient guidance in certain areas has been developed to support the implementation of the Framework;

4. *Decides* that the following programmes of work [and] [other areas of work][cross-cutting issues] are to be maintained close to their current form and regularly updated, taking into account recent decisions of the Conference of the Parties and work undertaken by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice[on agricultural biodiversity; communication education and public awareness; gender and biodiversity; biodiversity and health; forest biodiversity; monitoring, reporting and review; invasive alien species; island biodiversity;

²²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²²⁶ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

marine and coastal biodiversity; synthetic biology; liability and redress; the Global Taxonomy Initiative; protected areas; inland waters biodiversity; and mountain biodiversity];

5. *Recognizes* that the following programmes of work [and] [other areas of work][cross-cutting issues] would benefit from being updated to better align with the Framework, following the schedule and approach contained in the annex to the present decision: [agricultural biodiversity, Global Taxonomy Initiative, ecosystem restoration, inland waters biodiversity and mountain biodiversity];

6. *Also recognizes* that the following programmes of work [and] [other areas of work][cross-cutting issues] would benefit from being integrated: [business engagement; capacity-building; climate change and biodiversity; digital sequence information on genetic resources; economics, trade and incentive measures; ecosystem restoration; financial mechanism; Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; mainstreaming; resource mobilization; sustainable use of biodiversity; sustainable wildlife management; technical and scientific cooperation; technology transfer; and tourism and biodiversity];

7. *Decides* that the following programmes of work [and] [other areas of work][cross-cutting issues] should be led by partner organizations and Parties, noting that all achievements in that regard should continue to be recorded on the website of the Convention and through the clearing-house mechanisms, as information sources: [biodiversity and cultural diversity; biodiversity for development; dry and subhumid land biodiversity; ecosystem approach; and impact assessment];

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to carry out an analysis on the implications and potential benefits of integrating the programmes of work [and] [other areas of work][cross-cutting issues] listed in paragraph 6 above and submit the results for consideration by the appropriate subsidiary body or bodies at a meeting held before its eighteenth meeting.

Annex*

Evaluation methodology for the programmes of work under the Convention

- Schedule for updating the programmes of work [and] [other areas of work][cross-cutting issues] referred to in paragraph 5 of the present decision.
 - Approach for updating programmes of work [and] [other areas of work][cross-cutting issues] referred to in paragraph 5 of the present decision.
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* To be completed at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 17 (b)

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [27/5](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Strategic review of and update to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

[The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [IX/5](#) of 30 May 2008, [XIII/7](#) of 17 December 2016 and [16/35](#) of 27 February 2025,

Recognizing that forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management are important for the achievement of many targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²²⁷

Deeply concerned about the continuous loss and degradation of forests, especially primary forest and protected forest areas, while acknowledging recent efforts by many countries to reduce deforestation,

Recognizing that the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity is a shared priority of the Rio conventions,

Recalling the findings of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement,²²⁸ in particular the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030,

Recognizing the contribution of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,²²⁹ [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²³⁰] [the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change²³¹ and the Paris Agreement] and other global instruments and processes further promoting forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management,

Welcoming the ongoing joint efforts undertaken under the Collaborative Partnership on Forests workplan 2025–2028, including on enhanced policy coherence with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,

Expressing its appreciation for the continuous contribution of the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea to the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative to develop capacity on sustainable forest management,

1. *Acknowledges that the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity²³² and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties provide guidance on forest-related actions under the Convention on Biological Diversity,²³³ and the ongoing importance of that programme and of the*

²²⁷ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²²⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.

²²⁹ See General Assembly resolution 71/285.

²³⁰ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²³¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

²³² Decision [VI/22](#).

²³³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

related decisions to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, but that supplementary guidance in relation to certain targets of the Framework is useful;

[2. *Takes note* of information document [CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/9](#), entitled “Information related to the review of and potential updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”];]

[3. *[Welcomes][Notes [the potential relevance of]] [The Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and] The Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the work undertaken under the Convention, including the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, and to the implementation of the Framework;]

[4. *Endorses* the complementary activities contained in the annex to the present decision as priority actions to further support the implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity;]

[5. *Recognizes* that the complementary activities contained in the annex to the present decision and measures taken to support the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, including unilateral measures, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;]

6. *Also recognizes* the importance of mobilizing predictable, adequate and sustainable means of implementation, including through financial resources, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building, to ensure the effective implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;

7. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to take into account the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as applicable, as well as their implementation, and in the development of national targets, national reports, national capacity-building and development programmes and resource mobilization strategies, to support the implementation of the Framework, national forest programmes and other forest-related programmes, strategies and initiatives;

[8. *Encourages* Parties to apply a human-rights based and gender-responsive approach and intergenerational equity in the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;]

9. *Invites* the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, processes and partnerships, such as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as appropriate, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity by supporting the implementation of the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, including through the development of targeted capacity-building and development programmes [and the dissemination of guidance and tools] to support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

10. *Invites* indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, women, children and youth, persons with disabilities and forest actors, to use the annex to the present decision as guidance to support the implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity;

11. *Invites* the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to consider ways and means to further enhance their individual and collective contributions to support Parties in their implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity;

[12. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to mainstream forest biodiversity, through the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the activities listed in the annex to the present decision, into and across all relevant sectors;]

[13. *Requests* that, with regard to the annex to the present decision, and subject to the availability of resources, the Executive Secretary of the Convention:

(a) Enhance cooperation with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members to compile and make available relevant recent guidance and tools and to identify future joint initiatives related to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, giving particular attention to sustainable forest management and to increasing collaboration on resource mobilization for biodiversity-inclusive forest management;

(b) Compile and make available relevant experiences from Parties, other Governments [and all relevant stakeholders][, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth] on the use of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision in support of the implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity;

(c) Integrate the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, as appropriate, into relevant capacity-building and development and scientific and technical cooperation efforts undertaken under the Convention, including through the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative and the Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme;

(d) Strengthen communication on the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, including the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, among all stakeholders, including relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations;

(e) Report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the aforementioned cooperation activities in support of the implementation of the Convention and the Framework.]

Annex

Supplement to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework^a</i>	<i>Complementary activities to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity^b</i>
Targets 1, 2 and 3	[Protect and] conserve forests, [in particular primary [and high-integrity] forests] through participatory and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning practices, to enhance ecological integrity and forest connectivity[, respecting and protecting human rights, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities]. - Identify, disseminate and apply best practices [and principles] for forest restoration, including for qualitative aspects of forest management, with regard to spatial and within-stand heterogeneity, connectivity, climate adaptation and resilience, climate projections, wildfire management and decreasing risks of other biotic and abiotic disturbances. - Consider other effective area-based conservation measures as an integral part of forest landscape planning to improve forest connectivity, including in areas managed by indigenous peoples and local communities. - Encourage the use of native species in reforestation.

^a Decision [15/4](#), annex.

^b Decision [VI/22](#).

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework^a</i>	<i>Complementary activities to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity^b</i>
	[5. Promote guidelines, mechanisms and indicators for forest restoration monitoring and evaluation.]
Targets 4, 5 and 9	6. Manage human-wildlife conflict, including through sustainable forest management, where possible, while recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and protecting and encouraging their customary sustainable use. 7. Identify, raise awareness of and promote the application of best practices for conserving and managing forest habitats, maintaining the genetic diversity of forest wild species and their habitats [to prevent and mitigate disease risks to people, reduce extinction risk and support the recovery and conservation of forest species]. 8. Combat illegal logging and trade[and step up actions against deforestation and forest degradation]. 9. Identify ways and means to prevent trade in wild species, including invasive alien species, that has a negative impact on forest biodiversity. 10. Promote the development of forest timber and non-timber products to support sustainable livelihoods.
Target 6	11. Taking cross-cutting work on invasive alien species into account, provide guidance to assist forest practitioners and managers with preventing the introduction of invasive alien species, [and eradicating or controlling existing populations of such species,] including those that may be unintentionally spread through earth-moving and forest machinery and operations. 12. Promote the use of native species in forest restoration and management to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species.
Target 7	[13. Taking the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health^c into account, reduce soil loss and the risk posed by pesticides to forest biodiversity and human health.] 14. Increase understanding of the complex relationships between forest biodiversity and nutrient cycles and other biogeochemical flows, including atmospheric aerosols. [15. Encourage the development and evaluation of options for the adoption of biopesticides and lower-risk pest control products and approaches in forest ecosystems.]
Targets 8 and 11	16. Enhance the benefits for biodiversity, and avoid the negative impacts, of carbon market-driven incentives for large-scale restoration, including through afforestation. 17. Increase understanding of the impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity and on long-term forest management. 18. Enhance forest ecosystem integrity and resilience, as an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction, by using nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, considering likely long-term ecosystem changes and environmental and social safeguards. 19. Restore, maintain and enhance forest ecosystem functions and services, such as climate regulation, carbon sequestration, water regulation, good water quality, soil health, pollination and cultural values, through sustainable forest management, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches.
Target 10	20. Further develop, promote and implement [biodiversity-friendly practices], including closer-to-nature forest management, sustainable forest management, the implementation of safeguards into reforestation measures, reduced-impact logging

^c Decision [16/19](#), annex.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework^a</i>	<i>Complementary activities to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity^b</i>
	practices, the conservation of areas of particular importance to biodiversity, sustainable intensification, agroecology, agroforestry and inter-cropping, to reduce forest fragmentation and integrate indigenous knowledge and practices, as appropriate. 21. Promote approaches that improve the socioeconomic conditions of indigenous peoples and local communities, including alternative livelihoods based on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest resources. 22. Promote sustainable forest management and the sustainable use of forest products by all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities. 23. Support innovative business models that contribute to the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of forest biodiversity[, [including in the context][through the development and promotion] of bioeconomy programmes and policies]. 24. Promote the evidence-based sustainable use of fungal biodiversity for sustainable forest management.
Target 12	25. Provide and apply the principles of urban forestry and urban green space planning to urban development.
Target 14	26. Strengthen cross-sectoral efforts and mainstream forest biodiversity into policies, strategies and measures, including national forest strategies. 27. Promote the application of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, as appropriate, to recognize the contributions of forest ecosystem services and functions to the economy and the environment.
Targets 15 and 16	28. Promote good practices [in non-forest industries] in the production and supply chains to address the risk of deforestation, taking national legislation and socioeconomic conditions into account. [29. Encourage and support business and financial institutions to monitor, assess and transparently disclose forest biodiversity-related risks in their sustainability reporting.] [30. Encourage and support consumers[, in line with national laws and policies,] to make informed decisions and buy from legal and sustainable supply chains by providing relevant information.] 31. Address obstacles to sustainable forest management, such as the lack of market access for value-added forest products originating from sustainably managed forests.
Targets 18 and 19	32. Strengthen, further develop and promote financing instruments for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest. 33. Eliminate, phase out or reform subsidies harmful to forest biodiversity. 34. Engage the private sector in the development of innovative financial instruments or mechanisms to support forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management, such as payments for ecosystem services. 35. Work closely with the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the United Nations Forum on Forests, ensuring equal access to finance for all eligible Parties. [36. Improve equitable access and employ adequate financing instruments to enhance the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in implementing forest governance and community-based forest management.]
Target 20	37. Enhance technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building to add greater value to forest products, in a manner supportive of enterprises led by forest-dependent communities, including businesses led by indigenous peoples and local communities.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework^a</i>	<i>Complementary activities to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity^b</i>
Targets 21, 22 and 23	38. Taking the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity^d related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030^e and the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)^f into account: (a) Promote the understanding and application of indigenous and traditional knowledge, world views and values as they relate to forest and landscape management practices; [(b) Identify and promote best practices for the legal recognition of land and forest tenure of indigenous peoples and local communities;] (c) Identify and promote best practices [for access to information and justice and] for increasing participation in the planning and management of forests by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, persons with disabilities and other relevant actors; [(d) Recognize gender roles, responsibilities, uses, rights and practices to address underlying social and gender inequalities and adopt a gender-responsive approach in forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management;] [(e) Ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.]

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^d United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

^e Decision [16/4](#), annex.

^f Decision [15/11](#), annex.

Item 17 (c)

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: strategic review of and updates to the programme of work on protected areas

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [28/5](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [VII/28](#) of 20 February 2004, [VIII/24](#) of 31 March 2006, [IX/18](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/31](#) of 29 October 2010, [14/8](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/4](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024,

Acknowledging that the programme of work on protected areas²⁴⁰ and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁴¹ continue to provide a strategic framework for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²⁴² in particular Target 3, while noting that complementary activities are needed to enhance its alignment with the Framework and address identified gaps,

Recognizing that [ecological representativeness and] ecological connectivity [are critical qualitative requirements][is a foundational condition] for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively conserved and managed, and equitably governed systems[of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] under Target 3 of the Framework, and contributes to the achievement of other relevant targets and Goal A of the Framework,

[*Noting* the ongoing preparation by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity, and its potential relevance for the further [development and] implementation of the programme of work,]

1. [*Welcomes*][*Takes note* of] the forthcoming seventh International Union for Conservation of Nature World Protected and Conserved Areas Congress, organized in Panama by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Ministry of Environment of Panama;

2. *Adopts* the definition of “conserved areas” as “areas with other effective area-based conservation measures”,²⁴³ [recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable;]

3. *Decides* to revise the name of the programme of work on protected areas to “programme of work on [protected and conserved areas” in order to reflect the broader scope of][protected areas and [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]”, in a manner consistent with Target 3 of the Kunming-

²⁴⁰ Decision [VII/28](#), annex.

²⁴¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁴² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁴³ Decision [14/8](#), para. 2.

Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation, and to enhance clarity and coherence;

4. *[Endorses]* the complementary activities for further or improved guidance contained in the annex to the present decision as an update to the programme of work to support the implementation of the Framework, with particular focus on Target 3;

5. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to integrate the updated programme of work in the development and implementation of actions to meet the relevant targets of the Framework, in particular Target 3, subject to national circumstances, legislation and priorities;

[6. *Invites* [developed country Parties, Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country] Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments [and non-sovereign contributors, such as financing mechanisms], the private sector and philanthropic organizations, to mobilize, in accordance with Article[s] 20 [and 21] of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Target 19 of the Framework, new, additional, predictable, adequate and accessible financial resources from all sources to support the implementation of the updated programme of work, in particular for developing countries, including small island developing States, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;]

[7. *Recognizes* the importance of mobilizing predictable, adequate and sustainable means of implementation, including through financial resources, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building, to ensure the effective implementation of the updated programme of work;]

8. *Invites* the secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and United Nations entities, including the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity, indigenous peoples and local communities, including the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework by supporting knowledge exchange, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and development, and coordinated action in the implementation of the updated programme of work;

9. *Encourages* Parties [to apply a human rights-based approach in the implementation of][to implement] the updated programme of work, consistent with section C of the Framework and Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including by ensuring the full, equitable, inclusive and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, [recognizing their own governance systems,] [women, girls and youth, and, as appropriate, the protection of environmental human rights defenders];

10. *Invites* Parties to take into consideration findings from relevant assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services when implementing the updated programme of work and to engage in the preparations of the methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity;

[11. *[Decides* to establish a fifth programme element][*Endorses* a cross-cutting complementary activity] on ecological connectivity within the programme of work, as set out in section II of the annex to the present decision, recognizing ecological connectivity as one of several foundational conditions for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively conserved and managed, and equitably governed systems[of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], to support the development and implementation of actions to meet the relevant targets of the Framework[, in particular Targets 1 to 6, 9 and 12];]

[12. *Invites* Parties to reinforce ecological connectivity in the implementation of the updated programme of work, in line with the relevant complementary activities set out in the annex to the present decision and in support of the implementation of the Framework;]

[13. *Decides* to consider at its eighteenth meeting, as appropriate, whether additional guidance related to ecological connectivity is required under the Convention, taking into account the findings of the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant scientific and technical information, as well as experiences in implementing the Framework and progress in the implementation of the programme of work;]

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication with other ongoing initiatives and relevant programmes of work:

(a) To further support the Target 3 Community of Practice as a flexible, inclusive and voluntary platform, with a view to facilitating coordination, knowledge exchange and implementation support, and to invite indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant organizations and initiatives to participate in the Community;

(b) To collaborate with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and other relevant partners in order to deliver targeted scientific and technical support to Parties for meeting Target 3 of the Framework, based on the best available information and the best practices identified pursuant to subparagraph (c) (vii) below;

(c) To compile, with input from Parties, other Governments, [subnational and local governments], relevant organizations and other stakeholders[, within their respective mandates, and recognizing traditional territories, where applicable], a synthesis report on experiences, lessons learned and different approaches, as well as relevant scientific information, including the findings of the assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that support the achievement of Target 3 of the Framework and the implementation of the programme of work [in a manner consistent with Target 3] [, with particular focus on the following areas:

- (i) Equitable governance approaches, including the recognition and respect of the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and other groups, including through the implementation of relevant targets of the Framework;
- (ii) Ecological integrity, representativeness, effective conservation, ecosystem restoration and resilience, and ecological connectivity across terrestrial, wetland, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems, including in the context of climate change;
- (iii) The recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable [under Target 3 of the Framework], including by applying differentiated approaches for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact[, in line with the principles of no contact, intangibility and precaution], based on the outcomes of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, as contained in decision 17/xx;
- (iv) Gender equality and gender-responsive and intergenerational approaches, and the integration of traditional knowledge, in planning, governance and [the] management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable];
- (v) The integration of [well-connected and equitably governed systems of] [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into broader landscapes and seascapes [and the ocean], across areas within and beyond national jurisdiction[, in line with [the mandates of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,²⁴⁴ the International Maritime Organization, the International

²⁴⁴ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

Seabed Authority, regional fisheries management organizations and other] relevant international organizations,] including through biodiversity-inclusive and participatory spatial planning;

- (vi) The identification and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, and biocultural diversity, including underrepresented ecosystems and areas supporting ecological networks below ground;
- (vii) Planning, governance and [the] effective management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including the integration of climate change considerations and participatory risk assessment into species and ecosystem conservation, as well as the management of human-wildlife conflict to promote coexistence, as key conditions for achieving management effectiveness, including examples and best practices for other effective area-based conservation measures;
- (viii) Ecological networks, conservation mosaics, climate-informed spatial planning and corridor design, ecological connectivity on varying scales, transboundary conservation and its contribution to peace, and restoration, including in urban and peri-urban contexts;
- (ix) Monitoring and evaluation systems [for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through biodiversity monitoring and the use of relevant new technologies, community-based monitoring, the strengthening of national biodiversity databases, among other relevant dimensions, and, where possible, the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR) and of collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE)[, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation];
- (x) Sustainable finance approaches, innovative financial mechanisms, including from public and private sources [and environmental and social safeguards], relevant to the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework according to national priorities and in line with the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including direct and accessible financing approaches for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;
- (xi) Good practices related to access to information, participation in decision-making, access to justice and the protection of environmental human rights defenders, consistent with Target 22 of the Framework;]

(d) To report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

Update to the programme of work on [protected and conserved areas][protected areas and [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]]

1. The table below shows the mapping of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²⁴⁵ against complementary activities that could support the implementation of the programme of work.²⁴⁶ It highlights areas of strong alignment, opportunities to strengthen existing provisions and gaps where further development is needed. It is based on the findings of a

²⁴⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁴⁶ Decision [VII/28](#), annex.

strategic review of the programme, related submissions and a peer review analysis. The activities are categorized as follows: (A) activities that have existing strong alignment with Target 3 of the Framework and its interlinkages with other targets; (B) activities that address targets that are partially covered by the programme of work and where implementation can be strengthened; and (C) activities for further developing areas that the programme of work does not cover or only covers in a limited manner and where additional guidance is needed. For Targets 9, 13, 16, 17 and 18, no specific actions [relevant to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] are proposed.

2. The implementation of the updated programme of work should be conducted in line with section C of the Framework, [in particular by following a human rights-based approach,] and in accordance with national circumstances, legislation and priorities.

I. Complementary activities to strengthen the programme of work on [protected and conserved areas][protected areas and [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]] and its alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 1	1. Integrate [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into broader landscape and seascape planning to improve, in accordance with national legislation, biodiversity outcomes, ecological representativeness and connectivity, through participatory and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning processes, while recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. [1 bis Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	A
Target 2	2. Promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems [within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], and beyond, including buffer zones, ecological corridors, [soil biodiversity, in particular fungal biodiversity, ²⁴⁷] and inland water ecosystems, with a view to restoring ecological integrity and ecological connectivity across landscapes and seascapes, including through the development of criteria for identifying priority restoration areas and approaches for measuring restoration success, ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive implementation of the restoration efforts[, as appropriate]. [2 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	B
Target 3	3. Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Framework across implementation of the programme of work, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes carried out under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other	A

²⁴⁷ As described in Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others, *State of Knowledge of Soil Biodiversity: Status, Challenges and Potentialities, Report 2020* (Rome, 2020).

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.²⁴⁸ 4. Strengthen guidance related to improving monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems for terrestrial, inland waters, coastal and marine ecosystems to improve the assessment of biodiversity outcomes, including in relation to ecological representativeness, connectivity, integrity, conservation effectiveness, management effectiveness, governance quality, species population trends and through the use of appropriately indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²⁴⁹ as well as disaggregated indicators, including, as appropriate, by ecosystem type and level of protection. 5. Enhance guidance related to the recognition, respect, promotion and protection of indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, in the context of Target 3 of the Framework, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. This encompasses differentiated approaches to ensure comprehensive protection, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, in line with the principles of no contact, intangibility and precaution, in accordance with national circumstances. 6. Increase the uptake of practical frameworks, guidance, emerging innovative tools, case studies and national experiences, lessons learned and different approaches to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, including the definition and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecological networks, corridor design for climate adaptation, large-scale ecological connectivity, including ecological processes below ground, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation. 7. Strengthen the operationalization of equitable and effective governance in [the] planning and management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] [and a human rights-based approach] consistent with section C of the Framework, including by, as appropriate, shifting from beneficiary-based approaches to recognizing, respecting, promoting and protecting the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities; promoting standards and good practices for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; respecting and strengthening, where applicable, the implementation of free, prior and informed consent,²⁵⁰ [consistent with national circumstances and legislation and international instruments]. 8. Strengthen inclusive monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems [for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including by identifying available tools, and facilitate the use of relevant new technologies to better assess	

²⁴⁸ Decision [16/4](#), annex.

²⁴⁹ Decision [15/5](#), annex I, as updated in decision 16/31, and decision 17/-- on planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

²⁵⁰ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	ecological representativeness, integrity and connectivity, biodiversity outcomes, management effectiveness, governance quality, species population trends, relevant indicators of the monitoring framework, as well as [gender-]disaggregated indicators. 9. Promote the use of relevant and new approaches for ecological integrity and connectivity in the planning and management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through the development of ecological networks, ecological corridors, stepping stones and transboundary connectivity initiatives and corridor design for climate adaptation across wider landscapes and seascapes. 10. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of [protected and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including ecological corridors. [10 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	
Target 4	11. Strengthen capacities for planning and management through participatory risk assessment, rapid response mechanisms, where possible, and inclusive community engagements and the integration of traditional knowledge in addressing human-wildlife conflict and promoting coexistence[in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 12. Integrate effective management of human-wildlife interactions, including human-wildlife conflict risk assessment, in order to minimize conflict to promote coexistence [in the context of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. [12 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	B
Target 5	13. Address and manage the use of wild species [within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] where such use is allowed, in a manner that mitigates risks to native biodiversity and human health, consistent with site-specific conservation objectives and zoning, while preventing overexploitation and ensuring sustainable, legal and safe use at all stages, including through participatory biodiversity monitoring and the application of One Health risk assessment frameworks, as appropriate, and respecting and protecting the customary sustainable use practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.	B
Target 6	14. Strengthen the prediction, prevention, early detection, control or eradication of and the rapid response to invasive alien species[in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through community-based monitoring, surveillance systems, and biosecurity and trade-related measures.²⁵¹	B

²⁵¹ Any international measures should be implemented in compliance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization and with the International Plant Protection Convention.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	15. Strengthen guidelines, where applicable, for the development and implementation of national and regional plans for the management of invasive alien species and pathways of introduction into protected areas.	
Target 7	16. Address pollution pressures[, including plastic pollution, pollution from hazardous substances, pesticide use and run-off, and noise and light pollution,] from all sources [affecting protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions.	B
Target 8	17. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of [protected and other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including ecological corridors, by scaling up related response measures that promote resilience in order to minimize the negative impacts of climate change, while ensuring ecological integrity. 18. Promote system design for climate adaptation and resilience that anticipates future range shifts, including by identifying additional climate refugia, connectivity corridors[, soil biodiversity, in particular fungal biodiversity,] and areas of future biodiversity importance.	C
Target 9	[19. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 10	20. Strengthen guidance on the sustainable management of productive landscapes and biodiversity-friendly practices to support[, while being distinguished from,] [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] and improvements in biodiversity, ecological connectivity, ecosystem functions and resilience across landscapes and seascapes, in particular by promoting nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and integrated land-use planning approaches, recognizing the value of traditional knowledge and practices [and ways to distinguish such activities from those that fall under Target 3 of the Framework].	C
Target 11	21. Highlight the role of [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] in restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, [including water security, coastal protection, pollinators and food security,] as well as strengthen capacities to measure and value those functions and services.	B
Target 12	22. Integrate [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into urban and peri-urban planning, including through green and blue infrastructure, to enhance ecological connectivity, restoration, the conservation of native species and climate change adaptation, and to support physical and mental health and well-being, and equitable access to nature especially for the most vulnerable. [22 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	C

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 13	[23. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 14	24. Integrate [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into cross-sectoral policies, legislation, planning and development processes, where relevant for their planning and effective management.	B
Target 15	25. Support and promote the implementation of legal, administrative or policy measures that encourage and enable businesses and financial institutions to assess, disclose and progressively reduce biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts [on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] including across their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios, in order to promote sustainable value chains and reduce risks to biodiversity. 26. Facilitate clearer direction on engaging financial actors and the private sector [in support of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] on a voluntary basis to develop the field of conservation, protection and restoration as a key economic area.	B
Target 16	[27. No specific actions identified.] [27 Alt. Promote synergies between the policies and actions taken to protect and conserve biodiversity, and policies and actions that enable sustainable consumption choices, including through coherent policy frameworks, education, access to reliable information and sector specific approaches, such as sustainable tourism management, contributing to the reduction of consumption footprints and waste generation.]	[n/a]
Target 17	[28. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 18	[29. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 19	30. Promote the identification of timely, predictable and accessible financial resources from all sources, including domestic, international, public and private resources, for the effective implementation and long-term financial sustainability and institutional resilience [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] [including] in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and innovative mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, especially to support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, consistent with national priorities and with environmental and social safeguards. 31. Promote [direct and] accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, where applicable under Target 3 of the Framework, in accordance with national circumstances.	A
Target 20	32. Strengthen capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for establishing and managing [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including with respect to new technologies and institutional support for the conservation workforce, such as rangers and other relevant personnel.	A

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 21	33. Strengthen the application of advances in biodiversity monitoring, data management and knowledge-sharing through targeted capacity-building and development on comprehensive biodiversity monitoring and the use of innovative technologies, including digital technologies, remote sensing and national biodiversity databases, to improve monitoring, evaluation, reporting and decision-making [regarding biodiversity outcomes and ecological connectivity and representativeness, and] relating to [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] including through nationally appropriate approaches and indicators, while strengthening capacities and infrastructure for managing and integrating biodiversity data.	B
Target 22	34. Strengthen access to information and the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making [related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 35. [Ensure] access to justice by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and persons with disabilities[, including through the establishment of effective and accessible grievance mechanisms,] in accordance with national legislation and other relevant international agreements, to address issues related to the establishment, management and governance of [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 36. [Ensure] the full protection of environmental human rights defenders engaged in activities related to [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable].	B
Target 23	37. Promote gender equality and integrate a gender-responsive approach, including the use of [indicators disaggregated by sex][gender-disaggregated indicators], across the programme of work[, taking gender-based violence into due consideration].	A

[II. Programme element 5: ecological connectivity]

Objective

3. To maintain, enhance and restore structural and functional ecological connectivity across terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems, including by integrating ecologically representative and well-connected systems [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into wider landscapes and seascapes.

Goal 5.1 – Integrated planning and implementation

4. Integrate ecological networks, ecological corridors, stepping stones and other measures that maintain, enhance or restore ecological connectivity into biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, climate change adaptation and relevant sectoral and infrastructure planning, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and legislation.

Goal 5.2 – Equitable governance and enabling conditions

5. Promote equitable and effective governance, the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, the recognition and respect for their rights, including over their traditional territories, and the application of free, prior and informed consent,²⁵² as applicable, while strengthening financial resources, capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and access to and transfer of technology.

Goal 5.3 – Cooperation and coordination

6. Strengthen, as appropriate, national, transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation on ecological connectivity and promote synergies with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals²⁵³ and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives, in accordance with their respective mandates and while avoiding duplication.

Goal 5.4 – Monitoring and knowledge

7. Strengthen nationally appropriate approaches and indicators for monitoring structural and functional ecological connectivity, drawing on scientific information and indigenous and local knowledge, subject to free, prior and informed consent, as applicable, and taking into account relevant findings of the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services once approved by the Plenary of the Platform.]

²⁵² “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

²⁵³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.

Item 17 (d)**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: areas of potential further work in the context of the Framework**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [27/6](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

[

Areas of potential further work in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**A****Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning**

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the ongoing methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Recognizing that marine spatial planning has been adequately addressed in previous decisions, in particular decision [XIII/9](#) of 17 December 2016, and the focus of capacity-building activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, and that there are existing experiences and guidance related to marine spatial planning on different scales, including under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

[1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To prepare a report on experiences with participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning with a focus on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, drawing on the inputs into the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²⁵⁴ [decision 17/-- on the voluntary guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments,] information from Parties, including their national reports, and the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(b) On the basis of the findings of the report referred to above, organize an expert workshop to advance a common understanding of participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and its approaches, in the context of the implementation of the Framework, and develop a proposal for potential further work on such planning, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

²⁵⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

**[B
Pollution and biodiversity**

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024 and [16/31](#) and [16/35](#) of 27 February 2025,

OPTION 1

Recognizing that pollution is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss,

[1. *Decides* to establish, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc technical expert group on pollution and biodiversity, with a time-bound mandate until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to develop guidance on ways to address the impacts of pollution on biodiversity, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Invites* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to submit scientific and technical information to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁵⁵ in relation to:

(a) The impacts of pollution on biodiversity in different biomes, including the types and sources of pollution of priority concern for different biomes and species;

(b) Priority biodiversity considerations to be incorporated into pollution prevention, control and mitigation measures, for key sources, sectors and stakeholders;

(c) The role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in pollution mitigation (nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches), including guidance for specific sectors and sources of pollution;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make the scientific and technical information submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 above available to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Pollution and Biodiversity;

4. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review the outcomes of work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Pollution and Biodiversity and to present its recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

5. *Invites* the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,²⁵⁶ the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade²⁵⁷ and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,²⁵⁸ the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,²⁵⁹ the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority and the secretariats of the regional seas conventions and action plans to strengthen their focus on the interaction of chemicals and waste, including plastic waste, with biodiversity and ecosystem services.]

²⁵⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

²⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2244, No. 39973.

²⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 2256, No. 40214.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 3201, No. 54669.

[Annex**Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Pollution and Biodiversity**

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Pollution and Biodiversity, guided by the submissions from Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations, shall provide technical advice to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on:

(a) The impacts of pollution on biodiversity in different biomes, including the types and sources of pollution of priority concerns, in line with Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²⁶⁰ for different biomes and species;

(b) Priority biodiversity considerations to be incorporated into pollution prevention, control and mitigation measures, for key sources, sectors and stakeholders; and the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in pollution mitigation (nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches), including guidance for specific sectors and sources of pollution;

(c) Data and information management, in particular in relation to information on monitoring toxicity and reducing the risk of identified pollutants of priority concern for biodiversity;

(d) Biodiversity considerations to be taken into account in national integrated environmental monitoring systems and the alignment of data on pollution control measures with the targets of the Framework.

2. The Technical Expert Group shall comprise 30 technical experts nominated by Parties, including experts on biodiversity and pollution, with equitable representation from all regions and up to five representatives nominated by observer organizations and other relevant organizations.

3. The Technical Expert Group shall nominate two co-chairs from among the selected experts.

4. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall be invited to participate, ex officio, in the meetings of the Technical Expert Group.

5. The Technical Expert Group shall conduct its work primarily electronically; subject to the availability of resources, it shall also meet in person at least twice during the intersessional period.

6. The Technical Expert Group should be established and start its work immediately after the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

OPTION 2

[Recognizing that pollution is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss,

Welcoming the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution,

1. *Invites the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,²⁶¹ the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade²⁶² and the Stockholm Convention on*

²⁶⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁶¹ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

²⁶² Ibid., vol. 2244, No. 39973.

Persistent Organic Pollutants,²⁶³ the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,²⁶⁴ the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority and the secretariats of the regional seas conventions and action plans to strengthen their focus and enhance their activities on the interaction of chemicals and waste, including plastic waste, with biodiversity and ecosystem services, to advance the implementation of Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;²⁶⁵

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to engage with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution and relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations to hold a technical expert workshop on approaches to contribute to filling the gaps in tools and guidance to meet Target 7 of the Framework;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the entities referred to in paragraph 1 above, to prepare a report with a mapping of the work that may be undertaken by each of those entities towards meeting Target 7 of the Framework, with recommendations for specific actions to that end, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.]]

C

Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024 and [16/15](#) of 25 October 2024,

[Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To prepare a report on [Parties'] experiences [in implementing][with] sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity in local economies and indigenous and rural communities[, as well as fair trade and sustainable certification mechanisms], [and][including, as appropriate,] the [circular and sustainable] [bioeconomy], drawing on [information from Parties and] the inputs into the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;²⁶⁶

(b) On the basis on the findings of the review, to hold an expert workshop to provide technical and scientific advice on the definition, scope and elements of the concept of sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity[and the [potential contribution of inclusive circular and sustainable][circular and sustainable] [bioeconomy]], and to prepare a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

[D

Equity, gender equality and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [16/35](#) of 27 February 2025, in which it invited the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop tools and guidance on a human rights-

²⁶³ Ibid., vol. 2256, No. 40214.

²⁶⁴ Ibid., vol. 3201, No. 54669.

²⁶⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁶⁶ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

based approach to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²⁶⁷ and to convey the results to the Secretariat,

Taking note of the global analytical study on the implementation of a human rights-based approach into the goals and targets of the Framework conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To develop a proposal for potential additional work on equity, gender equality and the human rights-based approach, including intergenerational and gender equity, taking into account the midterm review of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030),²⁶⁸ the global analytical study on the implementation of a human rights-based approach to the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant information tools, guidance and assessments;

(b) To submit the proposal for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁶⁹ Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at meetings held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

E

Different value systems, as stated in paragraph 7 (b) of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that, in subparagraph 7 (b) of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²⁷⁰ it affirmed that different value systems should be taken into account in its implementation and that, in Target 14 of the Framework, it called for the integration of multiple values of biodiversity in decision-making,

Recalling also the adoption of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁷¹ related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 by decision [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024 and the elements and tasks related to the joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity in the annex to decision [15/22](#) of 10 December 2022, both of which support the application of diverse value systems in the implementation of the Framework,

Recalling further The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

1. *Invites* the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to make active use of *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature* in supporting Parties in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

2. *Invites* relevant organizations to further support the use and uptake of *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature* in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework;

[3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices among Parties, other Governments, subnational governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders,

²⁶⁷ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁶⁸ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

²⁶⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁷⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁷¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

including through the holding of dialogues and through learning platforms, to support the effective integration of diverse values and knowledge systems into the implementation of the Framework.]

]

Item 17 (e)**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: matters related to the work programme of the Platform**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendations [27/2](#) and [28/2](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and implications of its assessments for the work undertaken under the Convention

The Conference of Parties,

Recalling its decisions [XII/25](#) of 17 October 2014, [15/4](#), [15/13](#) and [15/19](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/11](#) of 1 November 2024,

[1. [Welcomes][Takes note of] [with appreciation] [the summary for policymakers of] *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* (“nexus assessment”) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services[, including its summary for policymakers and its key messages, [as well as the 71 response options,] and [highlights][notes] its relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁷² and to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;]²⁷³

[2. [Encourages][Invites] Parties and other Governments, [in line with][taking into account] national circumstances, [and] priorities [and capabilities][and relevant international obligations], [as appropriate, to consider taking into account the summary for policymakers in the implementation of the Convention] [and subnational authorities, actors other than national Governments][, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, the private sector and [other] relevant organizations and [other] stakeholders], as appropriate, to [promote and] implement a synergistic and holistic approach to biodiversity issues in line with the nexus assessment [and by:

(a) Building awareness of the interlinkages, synergies²⁷⁴ and trade-offs²⁷⁵ among biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change;

(b) Promoting and supporting the use of the response options identified in the nexus assessment;

(c) Identifying policy, governance and financing options for promoting synergistic actions and outcomes across the nexus elements, including through the use of the road map for nexus action;

(d) Promoting and supporting research, data collection and the co-production of knowledge, including engagement with indigenous and local knowledge systems, aimed at better understanding the interactions, synergies and trade-offs among biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change;

(e) Promoting and supporting engagement and coordination of government authorities, subnational authorities, actors other than national Governments, indigenous peoples and local

²⁷² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁷³ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁷⁴ Synergy is defined in the summary for policymakers of the nexus assessment as the enhancement of a desirable outcome in one element leading to the enhancement of another element.

²⁷⁵ A trade-off is defined in the summary for policymakers of the nexus assessment as the enhancement of a desirable outcome in one element leading to the deterioration of another element.

communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, the private sector and other relevant organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, in decision-making, to enhance the uptake of the findings of the nexus assessment];

]

3. *Encourages* coordination and cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention and the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and stakeholders working on biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change, consistent with their respective mandates;

[4. *[Welcomes][Takes note of] [with appreciation] [the summary for policymakers of] The Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity* (“transformative change assessment”) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, [including its summary for policymakers and its key messages, and [highlights][notes] its [potential] relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention and to the implementation of the Framework;]]

[5. *[Encourages][Invites]* Parties and other Governments, [in line with][taking into account] national circumstances, priorities[, capabilities] and relevant international obligations, and subnational authorities, actors other than national Governments[, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, the private sector and other relevant organizations and stakeholders,] as appropriate, [to promote and] implement approaches in line with the transformative change assessment [and by:

(a) Taking into consideration the findings of the transformative change assessment in their actions to implement the Framework;

(b) Building awareness of the need for transformative change to achieve the 2030 targets and mission and 2050 goals and vision of the Framework;

(c) Promoting and supporting the four principles identified in the transformative change assessment in the implementation of the Framework, namely, equity and justice, pluralism and inclusion, respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships, and adaptive learning and action;

(d) Promoting and supporting the use of the five complementary strategies and associated actions identified in the transformative change assessment in the implementation of the Framework;

(e) Promoting and supporting the engagement of government authorities, subnational authorities, actors other than national Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, the private sector and other relevant organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, in decision-making to enhance the uptake of the findings of the transformative change assessment;

(f) Evaluating the contribution of policies to transformative change and, if needed, make them more inclusive, well resourced and focused on places of high value to nature and people, as described in the transformative change assessment, while recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(g) Promoting and supporting transformative change in all sectors, prioritizing the sectors most responsible for biodiversity loss, as described in the transformative change assessment];

]

6. *[Welcomes][Takes note with appreciation of] The Methodological Assessment Report on the Impact and Dependence of Business on Biodiversity and Nature’s Contributions to People* (“business and biodiversity assessment”) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, [welcomes] its summary for policymakers[and key messages,

and notes its relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework];

7. *Recognizes* that all businesses depend and have impacts on biodiversity and can be agents of positive change;

8. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to use, as appropriate, the findings of the business and biodiversity assessment to support the implementation of the Convention and the Framework;

9. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities[, to consider]:

(a) To create or enhance enabling environments for sustainable business [and consumption] practices, including by:

- [(i) Setting up or strengthening and enforcing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that provide incentives or mandate actions by business and financial institutions to contribute to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity;]
- [(ii) Providing available information on the impacts and dependencies of business practices on biodiversity to enable sustainable consumption patterns;]
- [(iii) Integrating biodiversity considerations into relevant policy, legal, financial or regulatory and fiscal frameworks, and progressively aligning incentives and public and private financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework;
- [(iv) Supporting capacity-building and development activities focused on measuring and managing business impacts and dependencies on biodiversity;
- [(v) Encouraging business and financial institutions, financial actors and other relevant actors to contribute to creating or enhancing the enabling environment for sustainable business practices and engage in the implementation of the Framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- [(vi) Promoting, as appropriate and consistent with national circumstances, transparency and disclosure of business impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities related to biodiversity;]

(b) To [further] identify[, in addition to the gaps identified in the business and biodiversity assessment,] and support efforts to address gaps in knowledge and [the][its] application [of knowledge] for measuring and managing the impacts and dependencies of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, including by:

- (i) Providing actionable guidance and facilitating the uptake and consistent application of existing methods, knowledge and data for measuring and managing the impacts and dependencies of businesses and financial actors on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people;
- (ii) Enabling the collection and sharing of information[, as appropriate,] on the activities [and locations] of businesses, their operations and value chains, including through [disclosure and] traceability mechanisms;
- (iii) Supporting research and data collection, [ensuring the free, prior and informed consent²⁷⁶ of indigenous peoples and local communities when undertaking activities affecting them and their territories, where applicable,] including through capacity-building and development, scientific and technical cooperation[, financial support] and the development and strengthening of relevant national data infrastructure[, ensuring

²⁷⁶ All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities when undertaking activities affecting them and their territories, where applicable];

- (iv) Strengthening the interweaving of science and the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments;

- (c) To strengthen meaningful engagement and collaboration with business and financial institutions, financial actors and other relevant actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

- [(d) To strengthen and promote access to financial instruments and technical support for businesses, considering their size, activities and economic context, while ensuring that companies preserve and sustainably use biodiversity;]

10. *Strongly encourages* business and financial institutions, financial actors and other relevant actors to consider the key messages of the summary for policymakers of the business and biodiversity assessment and take action,[as appropriate,] in line with the options outlined in the assessment, including:

- (a) To identify and use appropriate existing methods to measure, manage[and disclose] their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people;

- (b) To use that information to develop strategies that guide decision-making and actions aimed at addressing risks, seizing opportunities and improving biodiversity outcomes, in line with the Framework;

- (c) To allocate, participate in and benefit from economic instruments and financial incentives that promote biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use while discouraging harmful activities;

- (d) [[Where appropriate,] to share fairly and equitably benefits][To ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits] arising from the utilization of genetic resources[and from digital sequence information on genetic resources], as well as from traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, in line with the Framework;

11. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to engage in the review processes for the preparation of the assessments and other deliverables, where relevant, of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

12. *Welcomes* the approval of the undertaking of a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which will be considered by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at one of its future session;

13. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, subnational authorities, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to engage in the preparation of the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, in particular the review processes, noting its relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention and that it will be a major scientific input to the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework to be considered at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

[14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention:

- (a) To invite Parties, other Governments, subnational authorities, actors other than national Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, the private sector and other relevant organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, to submit their views and experiences on implementing transformative change and nexus approaches when implementing the Framework, compile that information and make it available to

the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) To utilize the findings of the nexus and transformative change assessments in relevant work undertaken under the Convention, including when developing guidance for the implementation of the Framework, policy coherence and communication, education and public awareness;]

(c) To further strengthen the engagement and cooperation of the Secretariat of the Convention with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in order to support the implementation of the recommendations from the midterm review of the Platform[, including, in particular, those on increasing the policy relevance and uptake of assessments and other deliverables];

[(d) Subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives, to strengthen the work of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, with a view to enhancing the uptake of the findings of the business and biodiversity assessment;]

[(e) Subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with relevant organizations, to develop, capacity-building activities and technical guidance to support Parties, in particular developing country Parties, in promoting the integration of biodiversity into business and the financial sector, in accordance with the goals and targets of the Framework.]

15. *Encourages* the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the Global Coordination Entity to engage in the review processes for the scoping and preparation of the assessments and other deliverables, and to make active use of completed deliverables, where relevant;

[16. *Requests* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the Global Coordination Entity to provide, upon request, support for capacity-building and development for implementing transformational and nexus approaches when implementing the Framework;]

[17. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

(a) To consider how to further facilitate the uptake of the key messages identified in the nexus and transformative change assessments by Parties, subnational authorities, actors other than national Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, the private sector and other relevant organizations and stakeholders;]

(b) To consider, when developing its future work:

(i) The needs, gaps and challenges expressed in the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework;

(ii) The outcomes of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework;

(iii) The potential use of tailored knowledge products to enhance the accessibility and usability of its assessments for the implementation of the Framework;

18. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice[and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation] to consider the outputs of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services according to the schedule contained in the annex to the present decision and to make recommendations, as appropriate;

Item 18 (a)**Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: biodiversity and climate change**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [27/3](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Biodiversity and climate change

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming paragraph 8 of decision [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010 and paragraphs 3 and 6 of decision [16/22](#) of 1 November 2024,

[Recognizing that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification, land and ocean degradation, ocean acidification, invasive alien species, pollution and sea level [rise²⁷⁷][rise and decline][change] are interconnected and interdependent crises and challenges, requiring urgent action in a balanced manner under the respective frameworks, agreements and mandates, in full respect of their distinct principles, processes and decision-making authorities,]

[Recognizing also that biodiversity loss, climate change, ocean degradation, desertification, land degradation, invasive alien species and pollution, among others, are interdependent and need to be addressed urgently and in a coherent and balanced manner, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²⁷⁸]

[Recalling its decision [16/22](#), in which it recognizes the crucial role and capacity of the ocean in regulating the climate, and the need to address the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus in an integrated manner in order to achieve the goals and targets of the Framework,]

Recognizing that coherent action must ensure gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches and intergenerational equity, in line with its relevant decisions, and that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is acknowledged in section C of the Framework,²⁷⁹

1. *[Takes note of][Welcomes] The Thematic Assessment Report on Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health (“nexus assessment”) [and The Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (“transformative change assessment”)] of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and [its][their] relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention and to the implementation of the Framework;*

2. *Encourages Parties, other Governments [at all levels], indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant organizations and stakeholders to take steps to promote and implement integrated and synergistic approaches for biodiversity and the other nexus elements, including climate change, as appropriate, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;*

3. *Takes note of Advisory Opinion No. 31 of 21 May 2024 of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on climate change and international law and the advisory opinion of 23 July 2025 of the International Court of Justice concerning the obligations of States in respect of climate change;]*

4. *Stresses that the achievement of the mission, goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is only possible with urgent and effective action on climate change*

²⁷⁷ Sea level rise and other changes in sea level.

²⁷⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁷⁹ See also General Assembly resolution 76/300.

in a manner that is mutually supportive of the goals of the Paris Agreement,²⁸⁰ and informed by a nexus approach, as this is pivotal to avoid further biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation;]

[5. [Adopts][Takes note of] the primer for policymakers of the supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction²⁸¹ contained in the annex to the present decision;]

6. [Encourages][Urges] Parties and other governments at all levels, when undertaking actions to achieve Targets 8 and 11 of the Framework, as well as Target 2 and other related targets, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, persons with disabilities, people in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity:

[(a) To identify and operationalize potential biodiversity and climate synergies through their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and relevant national targets, including by prioritizing the conservation and restoration of ecological integrity and ecosystem functions, [including those mediated or affected by wild animals,] promote synergies with other national planning processes, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, and promote positive impacts and avoid negative impacts of climate action on biodiversity, including through the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and the respect for their free, prior, and informed consent²⁸² at all stages, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations, and ensuring that the development and implementation of those integrated plans are supported by adequate, predictable and easily accessible means of implementation;]

[(b) To prioritize the protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable management and enhancement of terrestrial, freshwater, marine and coastal, and managed and unmanaged ecosystems, inclusive with regard to wild animal populations, and of ecosystems with high ecological integrity that contribute to carbon storage and sequestration and adaptation, strengthening carbon sinks and reservoirs [and limiting the risk of crossing tipping points];]

[(c) To promote and support the use of the 71 response options assessed in *The Thematic Assessment Report on Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;]

7. *Also encourages* Parties, other Governments at all levels and relevant organizations, in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capabilities, to make use of the Voluntary Guidelines and its supplement, including through effective social and environmental safeguards to avoid or minimize social and environmental risks, when designing and implementing nature-based solutions²⁸³ and/or ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, recognizing the co-benefits for biodiversity and livelihoods;

8. *Further encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant stakeholders, financial institutions, multilateral development banks and the private sector, when undertaking actions towards the achievement of Targets 8 and 11 of the Framework, as well as other related targets, in line with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, to act in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention and consistent with Target 19 to collectively scale up investments for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity through climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, leveraging the potential of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and their multiple benefits with environmental and social safeguards;

²⁸⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.

²⁸¹ Decision 14/5, annex; see also [CBD Technical Series No. 93](#) for complementary information.

²⁸² “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

²⁸³ In accordance with resolution 5/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

9. *Invites* the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action and its institutional partners to further integrate biodiversity and climate change interlinkages into its work programme, including through the development of tools and guidance to support the implementation of the Framework;

[10 *Notes* the relevance of work conducted under the United Arab Emirates-Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 of decision 2/CMA.5 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement²⁸⁴ to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;²⁸⁵]

11. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the use of, as appropriate, the indicators used under [the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and] the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as the basis for monitoring the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services to climate change adaptation;

[12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to develop dissemination tools for Parties, other Governments, observers, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth on the use of the Voluntary Guidelines and its supplement, which could include the development of a Technical Series issue integrating both the Voluntary Guidelines [and its supplement], examples of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, activity-based reporting templates, metrics for demonstrating multiple benefits or other practical tools or toolkits, and share them, as appropriate, through the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism and the network of regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, with a view to promoting both enhanced capacities and the effective uptake of scientific and technical guidance by Parties;]

13. *Invites* the respective bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Parties to consider using the Voluntary Guidelines [and its supplement] for Parties to integrate biodiversity, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and social and environmental safeguards in mitigation and adaptation measures;

14. *Encourages* the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to make use of the Voluntary Guidelines [and its supplement] in supporting Parties in the implementation of Targets 8 and 11 of the Framework;

[15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding the duplication of efforts, in collaboration with the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the partners in the Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme, rights holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant stakeholders, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, organizations, partnerships, initiatives and coalitions²⁸⁶ and their respective members, to further pursue enhancing policy coherence, as appropriate, in cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification;]

16. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification on assessing and strengthening the mandate of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, and increase transparency and engagement between the Group and Parties by inviting

²⁸⁴ Adopted [at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to][under] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex).

²⁸⁵ Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

²⁸⁶ Organizations, partnerships, initiatives and coalitions include the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Accelerator Partnership, the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership, the National Adaptation Plan Global Network, the Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation Partnership, the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation network and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction.

representatives of the bureaux of the scientific and technical bodies of the Rio conventions to participate in meetings of the Group.

[Annex

Supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction: Primer for Policymakers

I. Introduction

1. Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches form part of effective and coherent responses to interdependent crises, including biodiversity loss, climate change and disaster risk.²⁸⁷ They are recognized as actions that can be taken to tackle societal, economic and environmental challenges under, inter alia, the Convention on Biological Diversity,²⁸⁸ the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,²⁸⁹ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,²⁹⁰ the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,²⁹¹ UN-Oceans, UN-Energy, UN-Water and the Group of Experts of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects. When well designed, they can support resilience and restore ecological integrity while advancing efforts towards sustainable development.

2. The Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction were adopted at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2018.²⁹² A more detailed version was published in 2019 as *CBD Technical Series No. 93*. They provide clear guidance on how to integrate ecosystem-based approaches into climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction effectively. Much of the guidance, including the principles and safeguards, may also be applicable to climate change mitigation and other social, economic and environmental challenges. Since 2019, there have been substantial developments in international policy and scientific understanding, notably the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²⁹³ in 2022. The present supplement is aimed at complementing the Voluntary Guidelines and relevant decisions,²⁹⁴ responding to the new developments and paying particular attention to implementing safeguards for climate change mitigation in line with Target 8 of the Framework, which is not covered in the Voluntary Guidelines.

3. In its resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly defined nature-based solutions as actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems that address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits.

4. Ecosystem-based mitigation can be understood as actions that protect, conserve, restore or sustainably use and manage natural or modified ecosystems for their carbon storage and sequestration

²⁸⁷ Decision [X/33](#) on biodiversity and climate change contains guidance for Parties on the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

²⁸⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

²⁹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

²⁹² Decision [14/5](#), annex.

²⁹³ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁹⁴ Decisions [XII/20](#), [14/5](#), [15/4](#) and [16/22](#).

service, to aid climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon removals from the atmosphere and to deliver benefits for biodiversity. In decision [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010, Parties and other actors were invited to follow specific guidance for various ecosystems.

II. Key messages

5. Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches provide many tangible benefits that directly support the achievement of global environmental, climate and development goals and targets, including Targets 8 (on minimizing the impacts of climate change and climate action on biodiversity and building resilience) and 11 (on restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people) of the Framework. The effective implementation of those approaches can enhance synergies across the Rio conventions, as well as other environmental and social priorities, including those of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. Embedding nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches into climate action policies, strategies and budgets, where relevant, can enhance policy coherence. Strategies that are ambitious, rights-based, gender-responsive and long-term in vision can help to ensure the continued central contribution of ecosystem health and integrity to resilience, low carbon economies and just transition, while increasing equity.

7. Fit-for-purpose social and environmental safeguards, including frameworks for implementing and monitoring them, would promote the multiple benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem services, resilience and human well-being offered by nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while avoiding or minimizing social and environmental risks. Safeguards for climate change mitigation actions should be consistent with decisions taken by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.²⁹⁵

8. Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches are most effective when they deliver across multiple objectives, and there is whole-of-government and whole-of-society participation, including broad and sustained engagement and support from indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists and stakeholders. Such planning, design, implementation, governance and monitoring efforts will help to ensure success in delivering benefits for both biodiversity and climate. This is most effective when the multiple benefits and services across various timescales and for different actors or sectors is properly identified and quantified. It is also important to ensure that benefits for biodiversity take into account natural ecosystem integrity and functions. In addition, they need to be grounded in evidence-based decision-making, including scientific knowledge, and in respect for diverse world views and knowledge systems. Inclusive, rights-based design and governance are built on key principles, such as free, prior and informed consent,²⁹⁶ gender equality and respect for traditional knowledge, cultures and practices. Adaptive monitoring frameworks will support ownership, transparency and long-term impact.

9. The Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and the present supplement could be usefully complemented by regionally and culturally tailored toolkits, which may be ecosystem- or sector-specific. User-friendly, actionable toolkits could offer guidance on various topics, such as safeguards, design standards, co-benefit evaluation and institutional readiness.

III. Principles and safeguards

10. The Voluntary Guidelines are underpinned by a set of 10 principles and nine safeguards. The principles serve as high-level standards to guide planning and implementation. They are framed as actions that promote: (a) resilience and adaptive capacity; (b) inclusivity and equity; (c) success on multiple scales; and (d) effectiveness and efficiency. The safeguards are aimed at preventing harm

²⁹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.

²⁹⁶ "Free, prior and informed consent" refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" and "approval and involvement".

to people and to nature, facilitating transparency and promoting multiple benefits. The existing principles and safeguards, designed primarily for ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction, are also broadly applicable to nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that can provide climate change mitigation co-benefits.

11. The present supplement updates the guidance on fit-for-purpose social and environmental safeguards by integrating some additional principles and safeguards for ensuring benefits for biodiversity from nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches focused on climate change mitigation, in particular to deliver biodiversity benefits and to strengthen the safeguards for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth.

12. Together, the principles and safeguards are an essential part of the inclusive, participative approaches to design and implementation described throughout the present text. These existing biodiversity principles and safeguards²⁹⁷ apply to all stages of project design.

13. The principles and safeguards outlined in the present section provide a facilitative and flexible approach to the implementation of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while acknowledging that countries may wish to adapt those standards in accordance with their levels of development, priorities and circumstances. Nothing in the present Guidelines should be understood as modifying the rights and obligations of Parties under the Convention or any other international agreement.

1. Additional principles and safeguards for ensuring benefits for biodiversity from climate change mitigation

14. When climate change mitigation is a key objective, additional principles and safeguards are necessary to ensure that the actions to be undertaken meet both adaptation and nature goals and avoid contradictions. Where countries follow these voluntary principles and safeguards, they should ensure alignment with their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including agreement relating to the implementation of Article 6 of the Agreement. While noting that international carbon market rules are set under said Article 6, the additions are focused on multiple benefits, with an emphasis on biodiversity and ecological integrity. The additional principles and safeguards for climate change mitigation relevant to both climate and nature goals are focused on multiple benefits, urgency, mitigation hierarchy, additionality, permanence and leakage. The table below includes descriptions of each of those principles, as well as potential safeguards.

2. Strengthening safeguards for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth

15. Building on the principles and safeguards laid out in the Voluntary Guidelines, and consistent with section C of the Framework, the following areas deserve further attention:

(a) *Respect for different value systems.* Nature embodies different concepts for different people, including biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth and systems of life. Nature's contributions to people also embody different concepts, such as ecosystem goods and services and nature's gifts. The Framework recognizes and considers diverse value systems and concepts that nature embodies, including biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth, and systems of life. For example, nature itself is assigned an intrinsic value and rights, including within legal frameworks, for example, in countries

²⁹⁷ I.e. applying environmental impact assessments at the earliest stages of project design and robust monitoring and evaluation systems; preventing the transfer of risks and impacts; avoiding degradation of natural habitats, loss of biodiversity, the introduction of invasive species and the creation or exacerbation of vulnerabilities to future disasters; promoting and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services; and aiming for sustainable resource use while not enhancing the drivers of climate change and disaster risks.

that recognize a Mother Earth-centric world view.^{298,299} This understanding is rooted in a common indigenous perspective that sees humans as part of nature and does not privilege them above other parts of an ecosystem. While existing safeguards, frameworks and standards often address the rights and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, they do not directly address all value systems, such as Mother Earth-centric world views. This aspect could be further developed, as appropriate, in diverse national contexts and in ways that are supportive of human rights and consistent with different national legislation and international obligations and principles of international law;

(b) *Respect for human rights.* Human rights-based approaches are essential to the legitimacy, integrity and effectiveness of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches. This is already embedded in the existing safeguards, but further strengthening in line with the Framework is recommended. Safeguarding the right of indigenous peoples to participate in governance structures and decision-making pertaining to nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that affect them is essential. Ensuring transparency, building trust and supporting flexible, inclusive implementation are also critical to successful scaling up. To address concerns around the recognition of the multiple values of nature and the distribution of benefits and burdens, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities should be fully integrated into project design, implementation and governance. This will involve giving attention to free, prior and informed consent. It will also include attention to customary rights, cultural protection, participatory decision-making, participatory implementation, transparent communication and equitable benefit-sharing. Wherever solutions that would affect existing rights holders are proposed, the guidance outlined in the present supplement is relevant. Furthermore, advancing gender equality and the fulfilment of women's rights are fundamental for the effective and equitable implementation of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches.

IV. Overarching considerations

16. The considerations below are intended to complement those presented in the Voluntary Guidelines in relation to the stepwise approach to design and implementation.

1. Scaling up

17. Good practices for the scaling-up of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction include:^{300,301}

- (a) Identifying the costs and benefits (social, environmental and economic) of different approaches in different contexts, including over various timescales or for different actors;
- (b) Addressing factors that enable success and the barriers to scaling, through systematic monitoring, evaluation and reporting on effectiveness and efficiency;
- (c) Adopting integrated approaches for scaling up, aligning policies, incentives, finance and safeguard measures, and including regional planning;
- (d) Applying fit-for-purpose safeguards, standards and guidelines;
- (e) Enabling effective locally led actions, scaling up and coordinating existing local initiatives, with safeguards tailored to risks and settings, in the application of the precautionary approach;

²⁹⁸ Cristina Espinosa, "The advocacy of the previously inconceivable: a discourse analysis of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth at Rio+20", *The Journal of Environment and Development*, vol. 23, No. 4 (December 2014).

²⁹⁹ Haydn Washington and others, "Why ecocentrism is the key pathway to sustainability", *The Ecological Citizen*, vol. 1, No. 1 (2017).

³⁰⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, *Nature-based Solutions: Opportunities and Challenges for Scaling Up* (Nairobi, 2022).

³⁰¹ European Environment Agency, *Scaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience and Nature Restoration* (Publications Office of the European Union, 2023).

(f) Applying evidence-based decision-making and recognizing science as a driver of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches;

(g) Integrating traditional knowledge and the efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities.

(a) Recognizing and respecting traditional knowledge and the efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities

18. Recognizing and respecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and valuing the efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities are crucial for the successful design, implementation and scaling up of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches. Key actions include:

(a) The full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth at the design stage and throughout project implementation, ensuring the co-creation of actions to be taken and enabling ownership at the local level. This may be facilitated by developing or amending policy and legislative frameworks that enable the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as facilitating their efforts to address climate change and biodiversity loss. This consideration builds upon principle 4 of the Voluntary Guidelines;

(b) Addressing land tenure rights and access to natural resources and recognizing the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in managing biodiversity and ecosystem services. Many indigenous peoples and local communities face unclear and unrecognized tenure despite having customary land- or sea-use rights, which undermines their ability to implement actions that address biodiversity and climate concerns and build resilience within their traditional territories. If the issue is left unaddressed, outside interventions can exacerbate land dispossession³⁰² or create uncertainty about land ownership. These considerations build upon safeguard 9 of the Voluntary Guidelines;

(c) Building bridges between different science and knowledge systems on the basis of best practices in existing forums, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Much traditional knowledge is passed on orally and is context-specific. For this reason, care and attention to data sovereignty must be exercised when including such knowledge alongside scientific findings.³⁰³ Data sovereignty policies can provide frameworks that Parties should use for the ethical use of data to advance collective indigenous well-being, and to prevent the unlawful use of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.³⁰⁴

(b) Mainstreaming nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches

19. Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches can only deliver their full transformative potential when mainstreamed into appropriate governance and policy frameworks and underpinned by inclusive planning, monitoring and transparency systems. When operationalizing the Framework, governments at all levels can ensure that the approaches are embedded through coherent land- and sea-use planning, as appropriate, climate-biodiversity budget alignment and spatial strategies. Many Governments have implemented programmes and frameworks to deliver nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches with climate change mitigation benefits, for example, by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD-plus), from which lessons can be learned. Governments can, and increasingly do, integrate these approaches into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions, also with a view

³⁰² Laura Notess and others, *The Scramble for Land Rights: Reducing Inequity between Communities and Companies* (Washington, D.C, World Resources Institute, 2018).

³⁰³ See www.gida-global.org/care.

³⁰⁴ Stephanie Russo Carroll, Tahu Kukutai and Maggie Walter, "Indigenous data sovereignty" in *The Indigenous World 2021*, 35th edition, Dwayne Mamo and others, eds., (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, 2021).

to fostering collaboration and integrated policy and planning approaches across the Rio conventions in a manner consistent with national circumstances and priorities. Enhanced collaboration among the responsible ministries will help to leverage synergies, ensure alignment across different programmes or frameworks and avoid the duplication of efforts.

(c) Raising awareness and building capacity

20. Communicating the multiple benefits of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to a wide audience is crucial to uptake and sustainability. It is also essential to opening avenues for funding. Understanding the information and communication needs of diverse stakeholder groups will help to ensure effective outreach, build a common knowledge base, raise awareness and strengthen capacities in accordance with the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development.³⁰⁵ Many organizations, partnerships, initiatives and coalitions are working on awareness-raising and capacity-building or on offering platforms for knowledge exchange.³⁰⁶

2. Stepwise approach to design and implementation

21. The Voluntary Guidelines provide a stepwise approach designed for adaptation and disaster risk reduction objectives. Some additional considerations for each step, including for initiatives towards climate change mitigation, are highlighted below.

Step A: understanding the social-ecological system

22. It is important to explore several issues when defining the challenge to be tackled and setting objectives for a new initiative, as outlined below:

(a) The history of the target social-ecological system, the drivers of ecosystem change and the rate of greenhouse gas emissions from ecosystem loss or degradation must be identified. Furthermore, the impact of future climate scenarios on the rate of ecosystem change and subsequent greenhouse gas emissions should also be considered. Such an assessment will feed into an estimate of emission reductions and removals from possible activities that will be undertaken under step D;

(b) With regard to the social context, the dependence of local jobs, industries, livelihoods and cultures on natural and managed ecosystems, the destruction of ecosystems, barriers to ecosystem restoration and the aspirations of the local population must all be considered;

(c) It is necessary to identify how and with whom the benefits would need to be shared, including through any use of domestic or international market or non-market approaches. In addition, the carbon rights and land and sea tenure must be recognized and respected, as appropriate, as well as the local attitudes towards payments for ecosystem services.

Step B: assessing vulnerabilities and risks

23. Step B is focused on the vulnerability of nature and people to climate change and risk to hazardous events. Engaging early with traditional knowledge holders and including their knowledge into climate vulnerability and risk assessments, with full respect for knowledge and data sovereignty, are essential.

24. Social and environmental safeguards are crucial tools to supporting the understanding and reduction of risks. Environmental safeguards include addressing the risk of negative impacts of climate change mitigation measures on biodiversity, including ecosystem integrity, the risk of

³⁰⁵ Decision [15/8](#), annex I.

³⁰⁶ Initiatives such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Accelerator Partnership, the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership, the National Adaptation Plan Global Network, the Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation Partnership, the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation network and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as their respective members, facilitate capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, and help to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, including by sharing lessons learned from the implementation of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches.

reversals of emission reductions and removals that may result from extreme events or slower onset climate impacts.

Step C: identifying options for nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches

25. To reflect the Framework, step C will need to accommodate effective, equitable and scalable nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches. The potential barriers to effectiveness and the multiple benefits derived from and the wider impacts of each envisaged option should be identified. Key actions for identifying climate change mitigation options specifically could involve: (a) identifying broad options for action, based on step A; (b) exploring specific options selected in similar geographical areas (e.g. through case studies); (c) working with the multi-stakeholder group concerned to identify favoured options; and (d) identifying elements addressed in *The Thematic Assessment Report on Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* (“nexus assessment”) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including the positive and negative feedbacks, trade-offs and benefits of an approach that considers all elements in achieving sustainable outcomes.

Step D: prioritizing, appraising and selecting options

26. Some additional criteria should be considered when prioritizing and appraising options for action with a climate change mitigation objective (key action (a) of the Voluntary Guidelines). The criteria may include: the position in the mitigation hierarchy; mitigation potential; resilience to climate change; and capacity to implement over the long term.^{307,308} Relatively simple methods can be used to derive a first estimate of mitigation potential for many options. Although countries should seek to improve their transparency reporting over time, including through the increased use of higher-tier data and methods. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change distinguishes three tiers of data and methods: tier 1 (default global values), tier 2 (country-specific) and tier 3 (more detailed models, more local data). Current understanding of ecosystem resilience to climate change (step B) is a factor in assessing the long-term viability of each option in delivering mitigation benefits. The capacity to implement will depend on existing skills and knowledge, training opportunities and access to the financial and other resources needed to enable implementation through time.

Step E: project design, implementation and scaling up

27. Alongside the key actions specified in the Voluntary Guidelines, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches will also be more successful when diverse knowledge systems are acknowledged and incorporated. It may be especially helpful to integrate traditional knowledge into design and implementation.³⁰⁹ When climate change mitigation co-benefits are intended, attention to the carbon-focused safeguards detailed in the table below is needed at the design and implementation stages.

28. One clear pathway to scaling up is the inclusion of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches in nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and other national plans. A first step is to quantify the potential for multiple benefits, including for biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, often through spatial analysis and planning. Scaling up also represents a unique opportunity to promote private sector and multilateral investment for implementation, as well as an incentive for technology development related to adaptation, nature conservation, sustainable use and risk reduction.

³⁰⁷ Sara M. Leavitt and others, *Natural Climate Solutions Handbook: A Technical Guide for Assessing Nature-Based Mitigation Opportunities in Countries*, 2nd ed. (Arlington, The Nature Conservancy, 2021).

³⁰⁸ United Nations Environment Programme, *Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Mitigation* (Nairobi and Gland, 2021).

³⁰⁹ Nathalie Seddon and others, “Understanding the value and limits of nature-based solutions to climate change and other global challenges”, *Philosophical Transactions Royal Society B*, vol. 375, No. 1794 (March 2020).

Step F: holistic and transparent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

29. Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches aim to result in multiple benefits that help to address several social, economic and environmental challenges. Monitoring and evaluation frameworks should therefore encompass the entire suite of interventions, including the multiple intended benefits, as well as track any negative impacts. Emission reductions should be measured in line with methodologies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement and in line with REDD-plus, the enhanced transparency framework and the requirements of mechanisms related to Article 6 of the Agreement, as appropriate. Multiple carbon standards and protocols are available, though they do not cover all types of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches.³¹⁰ Governments that deploy actions through REDD-plus are expected to develop safeguard information systems to provide transparent and consistent information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected.

Additional principles and safeguards focused on nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that provide climate change mitigation co-benefits

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Principle</i>	<i>Potential safeguard</i>
Multiple benefits	Prioritize approaches that address multiple social, economic and environmental challenges, seeking benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem services, resilience and human well-being, without undermining the environmental quality of the ecosystems where they are implemented (see also principle 10 of the Voluntary Guidelines). Prioritize the protection, restoration and management of ecosystems and species important for the full carbon cycle and contributing to climate change adaptation, while also placing strong emphasis on safeguarding biodiversity by focusing on vulnerable and climate-sensitive species and ecosystems. Ensure a balanced mix of approaches across communities and diverse ecosystems.	Planning for multiple benefits Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that provide climate change mitigation benefits should be designed taking their ability to deliver multiple benefits into account. This may involve: (a) Assessing the benefits, risks and trade-offs of selected actions across multiple social, economic and environmental challenges, considering the vulnerability of ecosystems; (b) Undertaking spatial prioritization that incorporates an analysis of the social and environmental risks and benefits of the proposed actions; (c) Over larger areas, aiming to balance among actions that prioritize several benefits, communities and ecosystems, so that all efforts are not directed to high-carbon ecosystems; (d) Communicating to stakeholders the trade-offs among various benefits and the recognized risks when comparing proposed actions, as part of participative decision-making processes.
Urgency	Consider the pressing urgency of the biodiversity and climate crises, together with the longevity of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Actions that reduce emissions or enhance removals in the short term are more valuable than those with results that materialize over a longer time frame. Avoid the trap of prioritizing speed over resilience (see “permanence and long-term impacts” below).	Projection of carbon and biodiversity outcomes through time Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that provide climate change mitigation benefits should be selected on the basis of an assessment of the expected results, where such information is available. Benefits to biodiversity should be considered and estimated. Cost per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent should be considered and, together with resilience considerations, may, for example, help countries to identify the types of

³¹⁰ World Business Council for Sustainable Development, “Carbon standards for natural climate solutions (NCS) credits”, associated technical paper for the report *Nature-based Solutions in strategies for Net Zero, Nature Positive and addressing Inequality* (November 2022).

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Principle</i>	<i>Potential safeguard</i>
		restoration intervention most suitable for a given area.
Mitigation hierarchy	First tackle any ongoing loss of carbon stocks in natural habitats, followed by action to restore historical damage (noting, however, that both may be pursued, as local circumstances allow). This principle is closely connected with the urgency principle and multiple benefit principles above. Emissions from the destruction of a natural ecosystem are near-instantaneous, while the carbon removals resulting from the full restoration of an equivalent area of the same ecosystem will typically take many years.	Following the mitigation hierarchy Mitigation hierarchy should be considered in nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that provide climate change mitigation benefits. Where there is a choice between reducing both negative impacts on biodiversity and emissions by preventing the loss or degradation of natural ecosystems (e.g. deforestation) and emissions removals by restoring natural ecosystems, and each option has similar mitigation benefits, the mitigation hierarchy should be followed to avoid further negative impacts before restoring degraded ecosystems.
Additionality	Account only for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity benefits or carbon emission reductions or removals that would not have otherwise occurred (i.e. new climate benefits resulting from the activity).	Ensuring additionality Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that provide climate change mitigation should be designed on the basis of a stringent assessment of additionality, following accepted carbon standards, including those agreed under the Paris Agreement. The net reduction of carbon stocks in all organic carbon pools (above and below ground in the case of terrestrial ecosystems) should be prevented.
Permanence and long-term impacts	Prioritize activities where the emission reductions or removals and the biodiversity benefits are likely to be long-lasting, taking social and ecological factors into account.	Promoting permanence Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that provide climate change mitigation should have long-lasting results. They should protect, maintain and restore biodiversity and ecological integrity (ecosystem condition, composition, structure and function). Actions should be designed to reduce the risk of reversals (i.e. Cancun safeguard f),³¹¹ which typically means tackling the underlying drivers of ecosystem degradation and barriers to ecosystem restoration or sustainable management. Actions should be designed for climate and ecosystem resilience, prioritizing the use of local, climate-resilient native species in planting and restoration. Monitoring systems should be able to assess any reversals, and carbon accounting or crediting systems should include buffers to cater for the remaining risk of reversals.
Leakage	Avoid displacement (“leakage”) of emissions to, and negative impacts on biodiversity in, another location.	Avoiding leakage Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches that provide climate change mitigation should be designed to avoid leakage. Where

³¹¹ Decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, subpara. 2 (f), of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Principle</i>	<i>Potential safeguard</i>
	Leakage can include local, national and international leakage.	international carbon markets are used, proponents should follow current and future guidance developed under the Paris Agreement. Solutions include: (a) Locating mitigation activities in well-governed landscapes and as part of an integrated spatial plan (see Target 1 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework); (b) Working collaboratively with actors dependent on land-use change to develop alternative livelihoods and economic pathways that do not lead to leakage or to rebound effects; (c) Undertaking biodiversity and carbon accounting on a jurisdictional scale or within a nested scheme, to integrate local and domestic leakage into overall results; (d) Estimating the remaining risk of leakage on the local, domestic and international scales; (e) Deducting projected remaining leakage from the biodiversity and carbon results in accounting or crediting schemes.
Equity, gender equality and human rights	Take a human rights-based approach, including by respecting and protecting the rights and roles of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, who are key actors in both protecting and restoring biodiversity and in implementing climate action. Their traditional knowledge, priorities and needs should be taken into account for biodiversity and climate actions to be equitable, inclusive, effective and rights-based.	Rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to climate change mitigation actions should be designed and implemented with the full, effective, inclusive and gender-responsive participation and representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth. Actions that present risks or imply potential risks of dispossession, undermining rights, failing to ensure free, prior and informed consent or benefit-sharing, among others, should be avoided.

]

Item 18 (b)**Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: sustainable wildlife management**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [28/4](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Sustainable wildlife management

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [VII/12](#) of 20 February 2004, [14/7](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/4](#) of 19 December 2022, [15/23](#) of 10 December 2022, [16/6](#) and [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024 and [16/15](#) of 25 October 2024,

Recognizing that sustainable wildlife management contributes to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity³¹² and the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³¹³ and provides important ecological, economic, social, cultural and spiritual benefits,

Recognizing also the critical role of indigenous peoples and local communities as key stewards of biodiversity,

1. *[Adopts and welcomes with appreciation]* the voluntary global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices [with a focus on: (a) inclusive and participatory decision-making; (b) the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and (c) the equitable distribution of costs and benefits], as contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational and all other levels of governments, including local governments, and relevant organizations and actors, to integrate, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, the voluntary global guidance, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national development plans, wildlife policies, relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, legal and institutional frameworks, programmes and other instruments as a contribution to the broader implementation of the sustainable use objective of the Convention;

3. *[Also encourages][Urges]* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments, and relevant organizations and actors, to strengthen local, regional and transboundary cooperation on sustainable wildlife management for shared species and ecosystems, including on access to relevant technology, information and data [and, as appropriate, taking into consideration other dimensions of the sustainable use of biodiversity] in a manner that respects national laws and priorities;

4. *Further encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations and actors, to engage the private sector and financial institutions in integrating the voluntary global guidance into their policies, strategies, plans, programmes, projects and practices[, including through the disclosure of risks and impact on wildlife along supply chains consistent with emerging biodiversity-related disclosure frameworks and national legislation and through the monitoring of biodiversity-related illicit financial activities], in line with Target 15 of the Framework;

³¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³¹³ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

5. *Encourages* Parties[, in line with Article 20 of the Convention], and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments and relevant organizations and actors in a position to do so, to support the implementation of the voluntary global guidance, in particular in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, including through capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and the mobilization of adequate, predictable, accessible and timely financial resources [from all sources, in line with Target 19 of the Framework];

6. *Also encourages* Parties, to ensure, when implementing the voluntary global guidance and [relevant One Health approaches[, including in the context of the WHO Pandemic Agreement]], that responses to disease risks, in particular zoonotic risks, are informed by the best available scientific evidence and traditional knowledge, taking into account potential impacts on biodiversity, wildlife health, public health and customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities;

7. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and subnational and local governments, and invites indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and relevant organizations and actors, to: (a) raise awareness of the voluntary global guidance; (b) monitor [and evaluate] its use and effectiveness; and (c) share information, best practices and lessons learned relating to its implementation;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and the secretariats of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements:

- (a) To promote awareness of, and facilitate the use of, the voluntary global guidance;
- (b) To support actions by Parties to address drivers of biodiversity loss and challenges to the sustainable management of wild species;
- (c) To compile the information, best practices and lessons learned referred to in paragraph 7 above and make them available through the clearing-house mechanism and to the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;
- (d) To facilitate, in collaboration with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant organizations, capacity-building for Parties on sustainable wildlife management;
- (e) To report on progress related to subparagraphs 8 (a) to (d) above in an information document for the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

[9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and building on decisions [VII/12](#), [15/4](#), [16/12](#) and [16/15](#), to initiate [a][an inclusive] consultation process on options for [strengthening the implementation of sustainable use, including through] a potential programme of work on the sustainable use of biodiversity[, including sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity] by requesting information from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant organizations and actors, and to submit the options for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

Annex

Voluntary global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices [with a focus on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits]

I. Context

1. In decision [14/7](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity³¹⁴ recognized sustainable wildlife management as an integrated approach contributing to the objectives of the Convention, namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The present voluntary guidance builds on that decision and subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties and will contribute to the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.³¹⁵ In particular, the voluntary guidance will contribute to the achievement of Targets 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 22 and 23 of the Framework, which provide a basis for advancing species conservation and recovery, ensuring that the use of and trade in wild species are sustainable, safe and legal and enhancing benefits for people.
2. In the present voluntary guidance, the definition of the term “sustainable wildlife management” is based on the definition used in decision [14/7](#), that is, the sound management of wildlife species to sustain their populations and habitat over time, considering the socioeconomic needs of human populations.
3. Sustainable wildlife management is supported by a broad international normative framework created, inter alia, by the Convention on Biological Diversity (in particular Articles 6 to 8 and 10), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Also relevant in that regard are the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity³¹⁶ and other decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including decisions [14/7](#), [15/23](#) and [16/15](#), on sustainable wildlife management. The Framework further reinforces commitments related to halting species extinction, ensuring the sustainable and legal use of wild species, restoring ecosystems and enhancing benefit-sharing.
4. Wildlife continues to provide essential ecological, economic, cultural and social benefits, especially in regions where it supports livelihoods, food systems and cultural continuity. While many wild species are used at unsustainable levels, others are effectively conserved and managed, demonstrating the importance of context-specific approaches. Those dynamics underscore the need for coordinated, risk-informed, transparent and adaptive management that addresses cumulative pressures and cumulative values, integrates multiple systems of knowledge and ensures that wildlife management remains ecologically sustainable and aligned with conservation objectives.
5. According to *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, many wildlife populations and species are declining, in particular where such pressures as land- and sea-use change, including habitat loss and fragmentation, direct exploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species, are not effectively managed. Those interacting pressures increase extinction risk, erode ecosystem functioning, undermine nature’s contributions to people and are intensified by broader indirect socioeconomic drivers, including population growth, increasing per capita consumption and expanding demands for land and sea use. Existing risks, including those caused by the dynamics of

³¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³¹⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

³¹⁶ Decision [VII/12](#), annex II.

wildlife disease, increases in illegal wildlife trade and trafficking and human-wildlife conflict, may further exacerbate vulnerabilities, in particular for species with declining populations or restricted ranges and indigenous peoples and local communities closely linked to wildlife.

II. Mandate

6. The present voluntary guidance has been developed pursuant to decision [16/15](#), in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and with inputs from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, youth and relevant organizations, to prepare draft global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices, with a focus on: (a) inclusive and participatory decision-making; (b) the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and (c) the equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

III. Purpose and scope

7. In accordance with decision [16/15](#), the voluntary global guidance applies to multiple species across terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems and to both extractive and non-extractive practices, including fishing, the gathering of plants, fungi and algae from the wild, logging, the harvesting of terrestrial and aquatic animals and wildlife-based tourism.

8. The voluntary guidance addresses gaps identified in the gap analysis to identify areas not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations³¹⁷ and the additional analysis of available guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management that might require complementary guidance.³¹⁸ Moreover, the voluntary guidance responds to submissions received further to invitations extended in notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#) and relevant findings outlined in the aforementioned *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*.

9. The purpose of the voluntary guidance is to support Parties in strengthening policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable wildlife management, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the Framework. In line with decision [16/15](#), its objectives are:

- (a) To promote inclusive and participatory decision-making;
- (b) To facilitate the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights;
- (c) To promote the fair and equitable distribution of costs and benefits arising from wildlife use and management.

10. The voluntary guidance, which reflects the recognition that cross-sectoral policy coherence and coordination are important for facilitating its implementation, includes the objective of enhancing policy coherence and institutional coordination across sectors and levels of government. That need featured prominently in submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#).

11. The voluntary guidance sets out general principles, safeguards and broad areas for action that Parties may refer to when strengthening national approaches to sustainable wildlife management [and promotes legal, scientifically sound, and regulated harvesting practices, including hunting, fishing and the harvesting of non-timber forest [resources], as essential components of sustainable wildlife management that contribute to biodiversity conservation, rural livelihoods, and food security]. While

³¹⁷ [CBD/COP/16/INF/6](#).

³¹⁸ [CBD/COP/16/INF/7](#).

it does not provide detailed operational guidance or species-specific technical standards, those issues may, as needed and in accordance with national circumstances, be addressed through complementary national measures and relevant sectoral or taxon-specific instruments, when possible, with the facilitation of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres.

12. The species groupings and practice categories used in the voluntary guidance (see box below), which are based on the typology applied in the aforementioned thematic assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, are intended to support application across multiple species and practices, while allowing Parties to tailor implementation to national, subnational and local contexts.

Species groupings and practice categories used in the present voluntary guidance

(a) **Species groupings:** the voluntary guidance applies to wild species across terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems, including aquatic and terrestrial animals, trees and other plants, fungi and algae;

(b) **Practice categories:** the voluntary guidance addresses both extractive and non-extractive practices. Extractive practices include fishing, the gathering of plants, fungi and algae from the wild, logging and the harvesting of terrestrial and aquatic animals, including the complete or partial removal of organisms, as well as the collection of parts or derivatives from wildlife. Non-extractive practices include wildlife-based tourism and wildlife observation, as well as cultural, spiritual and educational services associated with wildlife;

[(c) The application of the guidance to fishing and other aquatic practices should complement, and not duplicate or prejudice, measures adopted under national fisheries frameworks and by competent regional and international fisheries bodies, while recognizing the rights, food security contributions and knowledge of small and customary fisheries;]

(d) **Use of categories:** those categories are used solely to organize the voluntary guidance across multiple species and practices. Parties are encouraged to apply them flexibly and in a manner consistent with national legislation, customary governance systems, where applicable, and relevant international obligations. Use of such categories in the guidance does not imply that all species or practices are appropriate for sustainable use. In particular, where alien species pose risks to biodiversity, ecosystem function or native species, management responses should prioritize prevention and control.

IV. Principles

13. The present guidance draws on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, decision [14/7](#), the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its Targets 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 22 and 23, and relevant findings from *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. It is underpinned by principles and approaches reflecting the objectives of the Convention (see table 1) that inform the design, interpretation and implementation of sustainable wildlife management in support of biodiversity conservation, human well-being and equitable governance.

Table 1

Principles and approaches informing the voluntary global guidance on sustainable wildlife management

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
Ecological sustainability and the precautionary approach	Resource managers and users have the responsibility to ensure that the use of wildlife does not exceed the capacity of ecosystems to maintain or recover ecological processes, species populations, genetic	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (decision VII/12 , annex II)

^a The sources of information in the “Basis” column were used in the development of the principles and safeguards and have not been cited verbatim in all cases.

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
	variability and the continued provision of ecosystem functions and services on which both biodiversity and people depend.	
	Parties should apply the precautionary approach in their management decisions.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.	Convention on Biological Diversity (preamble)
	To be considered sustainable, wildlife management should consider ecological limits, cumulative impacts and uncertainty and avoid actions that risk irreversible harm to biodiversity, including through early action when evidence indicates high risk.	<i>The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species</i> (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)
	Ensure that the use and harvesting of and trade in wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 5)
	Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity-friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 10)
[Human rights-based approach and inclusive participation] [Full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation of indigenous peoples and local communities]	Subject to its national legislation, each Party shall respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8 (j))
	Each Party shall, as appropriate, protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 10 (c))
	Recognize that cultural and spiritual values and practices of indigenous and local communities play an important role in the conservation and sustainable	Decision XII/12 B , annex

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
	use of biological diversity and transmitting its importance to the next generation.	
	[[States shall] consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples and local communities concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent ^b before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.]	[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ^c article 19]
	Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 22)
	[Parties must consider women's roles, knowledge and practices with respect to wildlife management, and apply the gender-responsive approach, while securing their rights and safety.]	[Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 23) Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) (decision 15/11 , annex)]
Equity and fair distribution of benefits	The needs and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities should be reflected in the equitable distribution of the benefits from the management of wildlife.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	The costs of management and conservation of wildlife should be internalized and reflected in the distribution of the benefits from its use.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 9)
Integration of systems of knowledge and adaptive management	Adaptive wildlife management should be practised, based on multiple systems of knowledge.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Adaptive management should be practised on the basis of iterative, timely and transparent feedback derived from monitoring the use, environmental, socioeconomic impacts and the status of the resource being used.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	When using traditional and local knowledge, Parties should take appropriate actions to ensure that the free, prior and informed consent, consistent with	Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines (decision XIII/18 , annex)

^b All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

^c General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
	national circumstances, and approval of the holder of that knowledge has been obtained.	
Policy coherence and institutional alignment	Supportive policies, laws and institutions should be in place at all levels of governance, and there should be effective linkages between these levels.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	As far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife should be integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 6 (b))
	Each Party undertakes to provide, in accordance with its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect of national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 20 (1))
	The rights and obligations of Parties deriving from any existing international agreement are not affected by the provisions of the Convention, except where the exercise of those rights and obligations would cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 22 (1))
	Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 20)

V. Safeguards

14. Safeguards in the present voluntary guidance (see table 2) are procedures and measures intended to ensure that sustainable wildlife management interventions avert or minimize unintended adverse impacts on biodiversity and promote ecological integrity, social equity and accountability. Safeguards may include environmental and social impact assessments and public participation and should be applied in a context-specific, transparent and continuously improvable manner in line with national circumstances and legislation.

Table 2

Safeguards for the sustainable management of wildlife

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
Ecological integrity	Wildlife management measures should maintain ecological integrity and biodiversity, ensuring that management does not result in population decline of species, habitat degradation, loss of ecosystem function or the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8, in particular 8 (h))

^a The sources of information in the “Basis” column were used in the development of the principles and safeguards and have not been cited verbatim in all cases.

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
	Interventions should not transfer ecological or social risks from one species, ecosystem or community to another, nor exacerbate cumulative pressures across landscapes and seascapes.	Decision V/6 , annex II (principles 3 and 5)
	Wildlife-related interventions should, as appropriate, be subject to environmental, social and economic impact assessments and supported by biodiversity monitoring, including through participatory activities involving indigenous peoples and local communities, and evaluation and include cumulative impact assessments where multiple interventions or pressures affect the same species, ecosystems or communities.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 14)
	Wildlife management measures should prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species by identifying and managing pathways for their introduction and supporting their eradication or control, especially in priority sites.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 6)
Social equity and human well-being	Sustainable wildlife management measures should be science-based and ensure that the use and harvesting of and trade in wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Targets 5 and 9)
	Sustainable wildlife management measures should enable progress towards human-wildlife coexistence and should, where relevant, explicitly identify, prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict, recognizing that wildlife can pose a direct threat to safety, livelihoods and well-being of people and that unmanaged conflict can drive retaliation and undermine conservation and sustainable development objectives.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 4)
	Management actions affecting customary access, subsistence use or culturally significant practices should involve affected communities and, where appropriate, include fair and effective forms of redress.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Articles 8 (j) and 10 (c))
	Benefit-sharing arrangements should be transparent and based on clear rules, and should not exacerbate existing inequalities, including gender-based disparities.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (principle 12, operational guidelines)
	Where major wildlife-related interventions are proposed, including species translocations, invasive species management or the establishment of protected areas, impact assessments should, as appropriate, identify cultural values and potential trade-offs, with full and effective participation of affected indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders.	Decision VIII/28 , annex and decision VII/16 F
Transparency and accountability	Sustainable wildlife management frameworks should promote transparent governance, including access to relevant information and data relating, for example, to monitoring results, harvests, licensing systems and revenue allocation.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 21)

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
	Wildlife harvest, handling and trade practices should, as appropriate, comply with animal welfare, ethical and safety standards, norms and values of indigenous peoples and local communities, national legislation and applicable international obligations.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Articles 8 (l) and 10 (b))

VI. Key elements for developing and implementing policies on sustainable wildlife management

15. Pursuant to decision [16/15](#), the present voluntary guidance is based on the seven key elements of effective policy actions, derived from *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*, which were identified for use in developing and implementing policies on the sustainable use of wild species. Those key elements are:

- (a) Inclusive and participatory decision-making;
- (b) Inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and recognition of rights;
- (c) Equitable distribution of costs and benefits;
- (d) Policies tailored to local socioecological contexts;
- (e) Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices;
- (f) Coordinated and aligned policies across sectors;
- (g) Robust institutions, from customary to statutory.

16. Elements (a), (b) and (c) are addressed principally in sections VII.B, C and D below, respectively, while elements (d), (e), (f) and (g) are integrated across the present voluntary guidance, including in section VII.A and sections IV and V.

17. The key elements were identified in *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as enhancing the sustainability of the use of wild species and as a prerequisite for stronger implementation across practices. They influence the effectiveness of sustainable wildlife management by strengthening legitimacy, supporting adaptive and context-specific implementation, improving policy coherence and coordination and reinforcing the institutional conditions needed to respond to socioecological change.

VII. Actions for implementation of sustainable wildlife management

18. The present section comprises a set of four possible actions that Parties may consider in the context of supporting the implementation of sustainable wildlife management: crosscutting elements to support policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration; inclusive and participatory decision-making; inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits. Subsections B, C and D reflect the focus of the areas specified in decision [16/15](#), and subsection A was added because its subject matter figured prominently in the submissions received following the issuance of notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#).

19. Implementation of the present voluntary guidance may be adapted to national and local contexts, taking into account ecological conditions, cultural diversity and governance systems. In adapting the voluntary guidance, Parties may consider differences among ecological regions, including temperate, tropical, subtropical, arid, polar, mountain, island, coastal and urban contexts, recognizing that implementation needs, pressures, data availability and governance arrangements may vary across regions and practices.

20. Moreover, regional, practice-specific and technical tools may, as appropriate, complement the voluntary guidance in areas where more detailed methodologies, indicators, scenario analyses or operational standards are needed.

A. Cross-cutting elements: policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration

21. Policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration are important because sustainable wildlife management is influenced by interacting drivers across sectors and governance levels and within diverse socioecological contexts. In the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessment, coordinated and aligned policies, robust customary and statutory institutions, monitoring of socioecological conditions and practices and policies tailored to local socioecological contexts are identified as key elements for enhancing sustainability. Those approaches can help to align measures across relevant sectors and scales, strengthen institutional support for implementation, reduce fragmentation and policy inconsistencies and enable adaptive responses to changing socioecological conditions. The following actions should consequently be taken as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Promoting coherent policy, legal and institutional conditions for the sustainable and inclusive management of wildlife, including sustainable wildlife economies consistent with conservation objectives and ecological limits, traceability requirements, equitable benefit-sharing and the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant organizations and actors, including small-scale harvesters;

(b) Enhancing cross-sectoral regulations and coordination to address key pressures on wildlife management by identifying lead agencies, coordination and monitoring mechanisms, and relevant protocols for:

- (i) Prevention of wildlife crime, illegal harvesting and unsustainable use, take or trade;
- (ii) Prevention of habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation;
- (iii) Mitigation of and adaptation to climate-related risks and climate change impacts;
- (iv) Prevention of biosecurity risks, invasive alien species and disease risks, in particular zoonotic risks;
- (v) Reduction of pollution;
- (vi) Management of legal, sustainable and traceable wildlife use and trade;

(c) Promoting the embedding of ecological connectivity and habitat conservation in spatial and development planning by mapping and safeguarding key habitats, corridors and migratory pathways, as well as areas of cultural and socioecological importance, incorporating them into zoning and strategic environmental assessment processes and aligning actions with national land- or sea-use plans and, where relevant, regional and global connectivity initiatives;

(d) Promoting stronger integration of sustainable wildlife management issues into green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas, where appropriate, through the adoption of nature-based solutions and ecosystems-based approaches and by ensuring biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, updating urban wildlife management guidelines, establishing protocols for the prevention of and response to human-wildlife interactions in urban areas and supporting, through the significant increase in the area, quality and connectivity of, access to and benefits from such spaces in urban and densely populated areas, cross-sectoral initiatives that enhance wildlife literacy and encourage urban residents' engagement in the stewardship of neighbourhood wildlife;

(e) Strengthening regional and transboundary cooperation for shared populations, species and ecosystems by establishing or using existing regional platforms and developing and integrating bilateral or multilateral arrangements for coordinated conservation actions, monitoring, harmonized harvest or trade controls and the joint management of transboundary protected areas and corridors;

(f) Supporting business, private and financial sectors, as appropriate, in undertaking biodiversity mainstreaming within and across all sectors, with a view to ensuring the sustainable management of wild species, including by ensuring that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal; eliminating wildlife crime and unsustainable use, take and legal trade;

and regulating the disclosure by businesses, companies and financial institutions of risks, dependencies and impacts on wildlife along their supply chains, including through the monitoring of biodiversity-related illegal financial transactions;

(g) Addressing challenges to the sustainable management of wild species, such as landscape and seascape changes, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, overexploitation and zoonotic diseases;

(h) Strengthening cooperation and coherence with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations, including through the use of existing instruments and available data, as appropriate, to avoid duplication;

(i) Promoting more systematic integration of climate-related risks into wildlife management, in particular in climate-vulnerable developing countries, through ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions and by assessing, where relevant, the effects of climate change on species populations, habitats, ecological connectivity, disease dynamics, human-wildlife interactions and the sustainability of use and by adjusting management responses in the light of those effects;

(j) Strengthening or establishing national wildlife inventories, monitoring systems and adaptive management frameworks to support the periodic review and evidence-informed adjustment of management instruments, including quotas, permits and management plans, in the light of ecological evidence, risks and uncertainty;

(k) Strengthening minimum monitoring and reviewing arrangements, as appropriate, by establishing baseline ecological, economic and social information, the periodic review of management measures, the monitoring of outcomes and cumulative pressures and transparent reporting mechanisms that support adaptive management and timely adjustment where practices are found to be unsustainable or inequitable;

(l) Advancing targeted formal, non-formal and informal education, awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives in response to specific implementation needs, through training of trainers and partnerships with academic institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and community institutions;

(m) Supporting the mobilization of adequate human, technical and financial resources by integrating costs associated with wildlife management into sectoral budgets, gaining access to biodiversity finance mechanisms, including by facilitating access to international biodiversity financing mechanisms, in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capacities, and, where appropriate, leveraging sustainable financing instruments consistent with national priorities and safeguards;

[(n) Ensuring that international cooperation, technology transfer and mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the present voluntary guidance are based on the principles of sovereign equality and no interference and are not hindered by unilateral coercive measures that are contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations.]

B. Inclusive and participatory decision-making

22. Inclusive and participatory decision-making strengthens legitimacy, improves the quality and acceptability of decisions and supports the implementation of sustainable wildlife management that is responsive to socioecological contexts. Consistent with submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#), effective wildlife management depends on the transparent, structured, full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society organizations, scientists and relevant authorities, and participation should extend beyond consultation to include shared decision-making, co-management and co-design, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances. The following

actions should be taken to support sustainable wildlife management, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Facilitating fit-for-purpose participatory processes by ensuring early stakeholder mapping, clear roles and responsibilities, accessible information in relevant languages, adequate timelines and financial resources for participation, and documentation on how inputs were considered;

(b) Promoting the early engagement of stakeholders in the design of wildlife management measures and policies, including harvest regimes, spatial planning and restoration initiatives, applying free, prior and informed consent procedures, as applicable;

(c) Supporting the participation in decision-making processes, as appropriate, of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders, such as public authorities, private landowners, wildlife managers, civil society, academia, private sector actors and health and veterinary authorities;

(d) Promoting or strengthening participatory governance mechanisms through clear terms of reference, decision-making procedures and mechanisms for managing interactions where statutory, customary and private systems intersect;

(e) Recognizing and supporting community-based governance instruments, as applicable, such as biocultural community protocols, community forestry arrangements, co-management approaches and buffer zone governance systems, and recognizing the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and their knowledge systems, including cultural, spiritual and relational values associated with wildlife, through technical assistance, legal support, capacity-building and appropriate funding, consistent with national legislation and relevant international obligations;

(f) Promoting and, where appropriate, strengthening tenure and access arrangements through the recognition of the role of customary wildlife management systems in the development of policy instruments and tools, where applicable, and clarifying how tenure and use rights relate to wildlife governance, benefit-sharing and responsibilities for stewardship;

(g) Facilitating transparent access to relevant socioecological and economic information by publishing management plans, harvest or quota rationales, monitoring summaries, benefit-sharing arrangements, licensing rules and revenue allocation, while protecting sensitive information when disclosure, for example, of poaching hotspots or confidential traditional knowledge, could increase risks;

(h) Promoting balanced representation in wildlife governance bodies through such measures as quotas and the rotation of seats and by addressing barriers faced by women, youth and underrepresented groups, including those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, in line with national legislation;

(i) Facilitating the establishment of accessible grievance prevention, dispute resolution and conflict management mechanisms and ensuring that outcomes are monitored and used to improve policy and practice;

(j) Applying participatory risk assessments, scenario planning and trade-off analyses when decisions with significant ecological or social implications are being taken. Parties may consider providing, where needed, facilitation, technical support and capacity-building to enable equitable participation;

(k) Promoting inclusive dialogue and joint action in contexts of human-wildlife conflict and zoonotic disease risk by linking wildlife authorities with communities, health and veterinary services and relevant sectors and by using practical measures, such as early warning systems, community response teams and agreed protocols for safe handling and reporting.

C. Inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and recognition of rights

23. Sustainable wildlife management can be strengthened when it draws on multiple systems of knowledge and is implemented in ways that ensure the recognition of relevant rights, governance systems and responsibilities. Submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#) highlighted that scientific knowledge is often more effective when considered alongside traditional knowledge and that respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including with regard to customary governance systems, tenure arrangements and rights relating to knowledge, is an important condition for effective and equitable implementation. Parties should advance sustainable wildlife management through the following actions, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Providing recognition for local and customary governance systems, tenure arrangements and rights, and community-defined rules relevant to sustainable wildlife management, consistent with national legislation and relevant international obligations, including through legal recognition, support for customary institutions and negotiated agreements where systems overlap;

(b) Encouraging approaches that support the application of appropriate protocols and procedures for seeking the free, prior and informed consent and approval of knowledge holders, while respecting intellectual property over traditional knowledge, data sovereignty, culturally appropriate benefit-sharing from knowledge use and community-defined access rules;

(c) Facilitating the establishment of mechanisms for integrating scientific and traditional systems of knowledge as distinct and complementary sources of evidence in wildlife planning, monitoring and review;

(d) Facilitating community-based knowledge documentation systems and locally governed repositories, such as community-managed archives, databases or other systems for storing and transmitting knowledge, where communities agree to them, while respecting community-defined access, use and sharing protocols;

(e) Fostering intergenerational knowledge transfer and adaptive learning processes to allow management systems to respond to socioecological change, through community exchanges, mentorship programmes and learning-by-doing approaches embedded in management cycles;

(f) Enabling, where appropriate, the integration of community-based biodiversity monitoring and citizen science into national biodiversity inventories and reporting systems, using standardized yet adaptable methods, training and resourcing for data collection, management and feedback to communities, including participatory discussions on the interpretation of results and their use in management decisions;

(g) Incorporating, where relevant and appropriate, attention to population structure, connectivity and wild genetic diversity, drawing on scientific and traditional systems of knowledge and applying safeguards relating to consent, culturally appropriate use of knowledge and data governance;

(h) Strengthening capacities for species inventories and population assessments, as well as for monitoring of habitat, genetic diversity and taxonomy, ecological monitoring, the use of digital technologies and the management of biodiversity databases, by prioritizing risk-based and ecosystem-based approaches in data-poor contexts and promoting open and FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) principles, where feasible;

(i) Encouraging transparent access to monitoring and management information, as appropriate, while applying safeguards for sensitive data, for example, geospatial data on habitats, the locations of threatened species or confidential traditional knowledge, the disclosure of which may harm [national interests,] conservation efforts [and biosecurity measures] [or be against national legislation];

(j) Advancing the One Health approach by integrating wildlife and livestock health surveillance into sustainable wildlife management frameworks; establishing information-sharing channels among environment, forestry, fisheries, agriculture and health authorities; and incorporating safe handling, biosecurity and risk communication measures into wildlife management plans, as appropriate and consistent with the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health³¹⁹ and the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026) of the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health;

(k) Encouraging, where One Health approaches are applied, the monitoring and periodic review of outcomes for wildlife populations, ecosystem integrity, human well-being, domestic animal health and spillover risk reduction, to strengthen evidence-based learning and adaptive management;

(l) Facilitating through technology transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and access to financial resources, the use of emerging technologies, such as remote sensing, acoustic monitoring, eDNA, digital permitting and traceability tools, in monitoring and enforcement, ensuring equity, accessibility and cultural appropriateness.

D. Equitable distribution of costs and benefits

24. The equitable distribution of costs and benefits is important for sustainable wildlife management, as it strengthens fairness, legitimacy and long-term effectiveness, in particular where the burdens and benefits associated with wildlife use, conservation and coexistence are unevenly distributed. In the submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#), it was highlighted that wildlife management was more likely to be effective and durable when those who bore the costs of living with wildlife, including indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, derived tangible, intangible and equitable benefits from their stewardship, sustainable use and conservation efforts. Parties should advance sustainable wildlife management through the following actions, as appropriate and in accordance with national policies, legislation, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Ensuring that benefit-sharing arrangements encompass both monetary and non-monetary benefits, such as capacity-building, technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, equitable access to information and monitoring results, institutional strengthening, the recognition of customary governance systems and support for cultural traditions, traditional knowledge, practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and subsistence use;

(b) Facilitating fair, equitable, transparent, participatory and accountable benefit-sharing arrangements on the basis of clear eligibility, governance structures and grievance mechanisms, while considering other social and environmental safeguarding measures;

(c) Giving due attention to the differentiated costs borne by those living with wildlife, such as human-wildlife conflict, opportunity costs and regulatory burdens, through preventive, mitigative and incentive-based measures, giving particular attention to gender-differentiated impacts, women's participation and leadership, and persons in vulnerable situations;

(d) Promoting measures to protect the safety and rights of [stakeholders and local communities involved in sustainable wildlife management] [environmental human rights defenders, with consideration given to [gender][gender-differentiated violence][gender-responsive approaches]] [and challenges experienced by defenders], in line with national legislation, priorities and circumstances;

(e) Facilitating, where appropriate, the establishment or strengthening of insurance mechanisms, compensation and relief schemes and other incentive-based instruments to address crop damage, livestock loss and other costs associated with human-wildlife interactions in both terrestrial

³¹⁹ Decision [16/19](#), annex.

and aquatic ecosystems, thereby supporting coexistence and reducing social and economic vulnerability;

(f) Enabling legal and policy frameworks that allow benefits from sustainable wildlife use, trade and tourism and other sustainable wildlife economy activities to reach indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders by clarifying revenue-sharing formulas, devolving appropriate fiscal authority and supporting social enterprises and businesses of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

(g) Strengthening accountability for benefit-sharing of wildlife revenues through independent oversight, regular financial and performance audits, the disclosure of revenue flows and allocations and accessible grievance and remedy mechanisms, together with protections against retaliation, in accordance with national policies and legislation;

(h) Recognizing the roles of small-scale harvesters, processors and social enterprises within wildlife value chains and ensuring that regulatory measures do not disproportionately disadvantage actors operating within local and customary systems;

(i) Promoting diversified and climate resilient livelihood strategies linked with sustainable wildlife management, including sustainable use;

(j) Applying sustainability safeguards, such as biodiversity monitoring, to sustainable wildlife management activities, for example wildlife observation and nature-based tourism, including ecotourism;

(k) Exploring innovative and sustainable financial mechanisms, such as biodiversity-related levies, payments for ecosystem services, public-private partnerships and biodiversity credit schemes, with clear socioecological safeguards, including additionality, avoidance of perverse incentives, the monitoring of biodiversity outcomes and respect for rights of stakeholders involved in sustainable wildlife management;

(l) Promoting access to markets for sustainably sourced wildlife parts and derivatives, while ensuring that commercialization remains aligned with conservation objectives and within ecological limits and providing incentives for alternative business models with clear socioecological benefits, [including those within the social and solidarity economy,³²⁰] while taking into account the precautionary approach;

(m) Supporting, where wildlife populations, habitats or ecological functions have declined, restoration and recovery initiatives that should take into account the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, including effects on tenure, access, livelihoods and customary sustainable use, and provide for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

³²⁰ As defined by the International Labour Conference in [resolution 110/II](#).

Item 18 (c)**Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [28/6](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Marine and coastal biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming Articles 3, 4, 5 and 22 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,³²¹ as well as its decisions [VIII/24](#) of 31 March 2006, [IX/20](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/29](#) of 29 October 2010, [XI/17](#) of 19 October 2012, [XII/22](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/12](#) of 17 December 2016, in particular its paragraph 3, [14/9](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/24](#) and [15/26](#) of 19 December 2022, [16/16](#) of 30 October 2024 and [16/17](#) of 1 November 2024,

Recalling resolution 80/110 of 9 December 2025 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on oceans and the law of the sea, including its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,^{322,323,324}

Recognizing that the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas is an important scientific and technical process that contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³²⁵ [and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction],³²⁶

I**Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas**

1. *Decides* to extend the term of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
2. *[Welcomes][Takes note of]* the submissions related to the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the modification of existing descriptions, as contained in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/2/Rev.1](#) and summarized in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/7/Add.1](#);
3. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders, to contribute to the work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, as appropriate and in accordance with decision [16/16](#), in order to improve the coverage of such areas around the world and ensure that the descriptions of those areas are kept up to date, recognizing the underrepresentation of areas beyond national jurisdiction in such descriptions;

³²¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³²² *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

³²³ Colombia reaffirms that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is not the only legal instrument governing activities carried out in the oceans and seas. The participation of Colombia in the discussions under agenda item 18 (c) of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity does not affect its status or rights, nor can it be interpreted as a tacit or express acceptance of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

³²⁴ Türkiye dissociates itself from the reference made to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which it is not a Party. The participation of Türkiye in the discussions under agenda item 18 (c) of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties cannot be construed as a change in the well-known legal position of Türkiye with regard to said instrument.

³²⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

³²⁶ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

4. *Also encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to strengthen the scientific and technical capacities of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, including through the mobilization of resources, to contribute to the work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under the Convention, as appropriate and in accordance with decision [16/16](#);

5. *Further encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances, to make use of the best available scientific information and compatible tools, taking into consideration the identification and recognition of essential and particularly sensitive habitats of marine species, in order to support the description and identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and inform ecosystem-based approaches and area-based conservation measures, including the designation and management of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, as appropriate, in support of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while respecting the mandates of relevant international instruments and processes;

[6. *Adopts* the voluntary [reference elements for good practice][guidelines] on peer-review processes for the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas [and other relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria], as contained in annex I to the present decision, and invites Parties, other Governments and competent intergovernmental organizations to make use of them, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and the respective mandates and procedures of competent intergovernmental organizations, without affecting or modifying the peer-review or decision-making processes established under other processes and noting that the voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] do not prejudice the sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction of States;]

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in line with its terms of reference³²⁷ and to make a report on that work available at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to include the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and to transmit them to the General Assembly of the United Nations, with a view to informing work under its relevant processes, as well as Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to facilitate and support efforts, as appropriate, including in collaboration with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, to develop submissions for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas, including through outreach, technical support and capacity-building;

(b) To convene a global expert workshop, with balanced regional representation, to collate, synthesize and review the [best available scientific knowledge and other relevant knowledge][best available scientific knowledge[and][, including] information from diverse knowledge systems[,]] on ecological and biological features in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in support of the potential development of future submissions, as appropriate and in accordance with the modalities contained in decision [16/16](#), without prejudicing future discussions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties and in cooperation with [the Secretariat of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National

³²⁷ The terms of reference for the Informal Advisory Group, which have been aligned with the modalities contained in the annex to decision [16/16](#), are available at www.cbd.int/marine/ebsa/revised-tor-iag-on-ebsa.pdf.

Jurisdiction and] other competent international entities for the purpose of scientific and technical exchange, while ensuring complementarity and avoiding unnecessary duplication of or prejudicing work carried out under the Agreement, including with respect to area-based management tools;

[(c) To compile experiences in the use of the information contained in the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, including in efforts to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[, the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction] and other relevant international agreements and frameworks, and make that information available at a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;]

II

Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

10. [*Welcomes with appreciation*][*Takes note of*] the entry into force on 17 January 2026 of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction;

11. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Governments of Germany, Ireland, Norway and Sweden for their financial support for the convening of an expert workshop on scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction in Bergen, Norway, from 2 to 5 December 2025, and takes note of the outcomes of the workshop;

12. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant entities, including those in charge of regional sea conventions and action plans and regional fishery bodies, to strengthen coordination and cooperation at the global, regional and national levels on issues related to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with [the participation of stakeholders][the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders];

13. *Also encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and organizations with competence in areas beyond national jurisdiction, to use, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates and jurisdictional scopes, the wide range of tools, guidance and experiences developed under the Convention in their work to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, [such as in the implementation of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,]including work to support capacity-building, scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer, without prejudicing work carried out by those organizations and under relevant processes, while promoting synergies and avoiding the duplication of efforts;

14. *Notes with concern* the findings of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework that show that marine and coastal ecosystems consistently receive less attention than terrestrial ecosystems [and the fact that a significant proportion of reported protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in marine and coastal areas do not yet meet the qualitative elements of Target 3 of the Framework, including effective conservation and management, ecological representativeness, connectivity and equitable governance];

15. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to strengthen efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Framework in the context of marine and coastal ecosystems, including through enhanced policy coherence, scientific and technical cooperation, capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology and the mobilization of adequate financial resources from all sources;

[16. *Decides* to establish an informal advisory group on work conducted under the Convention in relation to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction with the terms of reference provided in annex II to the present decision;

17. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group on Work Conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity in Relation to Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction to provide a report on its progress for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To cooperate further with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other entities with competence in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular with a view to sharing tools, guidance, expertise, experiences and best practices developed under the Convention relevant to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as appropriate, within the mandates of the respective entities, in a manner that promotes coherence and coordination and without undermining, and with full respect for, relevant legal instruments and frameworks and the mandates and competence of global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies;

[(b) To prepare updates to the following documents, taking into account the best available scientific knowledge and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,³²⁸ as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, within the mandate and jurisdictional scope of the Convention, taking into account relevant work carried out under other international instruments, frameworks and competent global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, avoiding duplication and promoting complementarity and coherence, and to make them available for peer review by Parties and relevant organizations before providing them for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(i) The scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats,³²⁹ taking into account knowledge gaps in various regions, maintaining a clear distinction between the scientific description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and decisions concerning the identification, proposal, designation or establishment of marine protected areas or other area-based management tools by competent authorities and bodies, acknowledging ecological representativeness and connectivity as vital criteria for area-based conservation and recognizing and integrating diverse knowledge systems, including the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;

[(ii) The voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention;³³⁰]

[(iii) The voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments in marine and coastal areas and the draft guidance on biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessment in marine and coastal areas;³³¹]]

(c) To commission a report, to be prepared in collaboration with relevant organizations, on scientific and technical information on marine biological and ecological connectivity, including vertical connectivity, in particular in coastal, open-ocean and deep-sea ecosystems, in order to inform the implementation of the Framework, and make the report available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

³²⁸ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

³²⁹ Decision [IX/20](#), annex II.

³³⁰ Decision [XIII/11](#), annex II.

³³¹ [UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23](#), annex.

(d) To develop, in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts, scientific guidance on the application of emerging technologies, including environmental DNA, remote sensing and other appropriate biodiversity monitoring tools, to support the assessment and monitoring of marine biodiversity, taking into account national circumstances, capacities and priorities, using the best available scientific information and considering methods of application that value the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, and accompany that guidance with an analysis of priorities and options for capacity-building and development for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them;

(e) To identify which of the gaps and areas in need of additional focus contained in the annex to decision [16/17](#) would benefit from the development of new guidance under the Convention to advance the implementation of the Framework with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(f) To prepare an analysis on the status of the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity³³² in the context of the Framework, taking into consideration the disproportionate threats to island ecosystems, the inseparable links among marine, coastal and island ecosystems and the annex to decision [16/17](#), and to provide the analysis to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(g) To enhance further cooperation, collaboration or synergies, as appropriate, with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and global and regional organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative global dialogue with regional sea organizations and regional fishery bodies, with regard to various thematic issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity in support of the implementation of the Framework [and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³³³].

Annex I

Voluntary [reference elements for good practice][guidelines] on peer-review processes for the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas [and other relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria]

I. Introduction

1. There are various processes, on a range of scales and in diverse contexts, for describing areas of significance in marine and coastal areas, including the scientific description and mapping of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. The processes reflect a range of objectives, contexts and priorities and may be coordinated variously by intergovernmental or governmental entities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and non-governmental organizations. Some are focused on specific types of habitats, species or ecological processes, while others combine at least two of the above or have a broader scope. Processes other than those to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas may also be linked with management measures or used to inform related management decisions.

2. In its decision [16/16](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity³³⁴ emphasized that, in developing submissions for descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas or modifications to those descriptions, proponents should consider the need for a strong scientific basis with sufficient information, as well as the importance of transparency,

³³² Decision [VIII/1](#), annex.

³³³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³³⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

which are common factors of such processes. In that regard, peer review is a vital factor contributing to the effectiveness of the processes. Peer review can take various forms but is intended to provide an opportunity for experts to evaluate information in order to strengthen its scientific basis and credibility, enhance process transparency and support the consistent application of agreed criteria.

3. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop voluntary guidelines on peer-review processes for the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and other relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria.

II. Purpose

4. The present voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] are aimed at supporting, as appropriate, inclusive, effective, scientifically robust, equitable and transparent expert peer-review processes for the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas [and other relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria].

5. The voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] are focused exclusively on expert peer reviews as a scientific and technical quality assurance mechanism. They are intended to strengthen the scientific basis of proposed descriptions and support the consistent application of agreed criteria, recognizing that the description of an area as meeting the criteria for an ecologically or biologically significant marine area does not, in itself, constitute the identification, designation or establishment of a marine protected area or other area-based management tool or prescribe any management measure.

6. The voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] are non-prescriptive and flexible in nature and do not replace national peer-review and broader rights holder or stakeholder and other consultation processes. They are intended[, collectively or on an individual basis,] to serve as a reference for good practice in support of relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in particular decision [16/16](#). While they are primarily intended to provide options to complement existing processes to those who are managing a peer-review process, they may also be useful for experts involved in peer reviews.

7. Nothing in the present voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] shall prejudice work conducted under other international instruments, frameworks or competent organizations. Their use in such processes is voluntary and subject to the respective mandates, procedures and decisions pertaining to those instruments, frameworks or competent organizations.

8. Nothing in the voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] gives rise to any changes to the modalities adopted in decision [16/16](#), nor any additional steps or requirements with respect to the process for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas under the Convention or any processes related to the application of relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria.

III. Voluntary [reference elements][guidelines]

A. Information regarding the criteria for which the area is being proposed

9. Sufficient information regarding the criteria against which the area is being proposed for assessment should be provided to those involved in the peer-review process and should include the following:

- (a) A full overview of the steps of the process for applying the criteria in question, including the steps that have been completed thus far;
- (b) The nature of the criteria that are being applied (e.g. context or objectives) and all requirements, including any associated thresholds, that the area in question must meet;
- (c) An indication of whether the area in question is associated with any other criteria;
- (d) Information on any previous unsuccessful efforts to assess the area against the criteria.

B. Clear justification of why the area meets the criteria

10. Given that the expert review process is focused on ensuring that the proposal is of a high quality, sufficient information should be provided to those involved in the review demonstrating that the area in question meets the criteria, including the following:

- (a) A clear geographical delineation of the area, using appropriate formats, such as geographic information system files or geographical coordinates, and the rationale for the delineation;
- (b) The geographical scope of the exercise or analysis that led to the proposal to describe the area in question as significant;
- (c) An indication of whether the process that led to the proposal was limited to or specifically focused on certain types of features, habitats, species or ecosystem services;
- (d) A clear explanation of the features of the area that contribute to the fulfilment of the relevant criteria, using the best available information and knowledge, including data or data-driven analyses, and, where appropriate, traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (e) The gaps or uncertainties that may exist in the information or knowledge used, including a description of confidence levels, where appropriate, and an explanation of the ways in which the gaps are addressed, where applicable, such as through assumptions, extrapolation, modelling or the use of complementary knowledge sources, including an indication of the associated uncertainty to ensure scientific transparency and robustness;
- (f) Full references or citations for all information and knowledge used, including statements on the availability or reproducibility of data, where needed;
- (g) Applicable permissions for all information and knowledge used, including the best available science and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,³³⁵ consistent with national legislation and circumstances.

C. Experts engaged in the peer-review process

11. The following factors should be borne in mind when engaging experts in the peer-review process:

- (a) A sufficient number of appropriate experts in the topic under discussion should be engaged, under a clear rationale for their engagement, such as those from various rights holder and stakeholder groups, who would be participating in their expert capacity, giving due consideration to the participation of experts who were not involved in the development of the submission, including:
 - (i) Experts with scientific knowledge of the types of features, habitats, species or ecosystem services being discussed, ensuring that the peer-review group includes a sufficient number of experts with knowledge of all the main features of the area (e.g. two experts per area of expertise);
 - (ii) Experts in the methodological approaches used in the analysis;
 - (iii) Experts from indigenous peoples and local communities who have traditional knowledge relevant to the area in question;
 - (iv) Experts from various sectors and user groups, according to national circumstances and legislation;

³³⁵ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

(b) Experts should understand and disclose their actual or potential conflicts of interest, potentially using individual, signed, formal declarations, and their motivating factors for engaging in the process, and a consistent approach should be applied to the management of conflicts;

(c) A clear explanation should be provided of the types of input expected from the experts, which may vary depending on their area of expertise, and of the format of the expected final output of the process;

(d) Peer-review methods and timelines should be flexible to reflect the range of regional and institutional contexts, especially where data or resources are limited, without losing scientific reliability.

D. Establishing and conducting the peer-review process

12. The timing of the implementation of a peer-review process should be chosen in such a way that the scientific foundation and quality of the process and of the information used can be ensured as effectively as possible. The process should be carefully crafted and conducted, considering the following features:

(a) Effective and equitable modalities, which may include a combination of approaches, that help to facilitate the robust review of the proposal;

(b) Clear steps and expected timelines that are consistently respected and clear explanations of any deviations;

(c) Clear rules of procedure and code of conduct that are set out, explained to everyone involved and consistently respected throughout the process, including rules for reporting in any public documentation discussions and information provided during the process, such as on the use of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, consistent with national legislation and circumstances;

(d) Clear plans for the consideration of input received through the process and, where appropriate, for its incorporation and reflection in the output of the process, recognizing that not all input can be incorporated;

(e) Information on the ways in which the peer-review process influenced the final proposal, including a clear justification for any expert input that is not incorporated into the final output, as well as any dissenting views regarding the final output, in order to ensure transparency and the scientific reliability of the outcome;

(f) Adherence to any rules, procedures, timelines and expectations articulated at the outset of the process;

(g) Public availability of the outputs of the process, as well as input received during the process, as appropriate;

(h) Provisions for the adaptive improvement of the peer-review process for future exercises.

[Annex II

Terms of reference for the Informal Advisory Group on Work Conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity in Relation to Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

1. The Informal Advisory Group on Work Conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity³³⁶ in relation to Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction shall respect and take fully into account the mandates and work of other competent entities and intergovernmental organizations with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas

³³⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

beyond national jurisdiction, as well as previous guidance given by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention regarding the role of the Convention in that context, and shall conduct its work in a manner that promotes coherence and coordination.

2. The Informal Advisory Group shall:

(a) Provide scientific and technical advice to the Secretariat of the Convention on work relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular on the prioritization of and approaches for possible activities and initiatives, within the mandate and jurisdictional scope of the Convention, drawing on opportunities identified during the expert workshop on scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction held in Bergen, Norway, from 2 to 5 December 2025;³³⁷

[(b) Identify timely opportunities for specific areas of cooperation, collaboration or synergies, as appropriate, with the Secretariat of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction³³⁸ and other competent entities and international organizations with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including opportunities for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the subsidiary bodies to contribute relevant scientific and technical information, drawing on cooperation opportunities identified at the expert workshop noted above;

(c) Provide advice on areas of potential cooperation, collaboration or synergies, as appropriate and in line with the mandate and jurisdictional scope of the Convention, on relevant scientific and technical information to inform work under the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.]

3. The Informal Advisory Group shall be composed of up to 20 experts nominated by Parties, with equal representation of the five regional groups, up to 10 experts nominated by intergovernmental bodies with competence in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, and up to 7 experts nominated by other relevant organizations[, including from civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities]. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, shall select experts from the nominees with due regard to a diversity of relevant technical expertise, geographical representation, including from least developed countries and small island developing States, gender balance [and the representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth groups, and relevant stakeholders].

4. The Informal Advisory Group is established for a two-year period [that may be renewed by a decision of the Conference of the Parties]. The members of the Group shall be selected for a two-year period. The work of the Group should continue regardless of any changes in membership.

5. The Informal Advisory Group may invite experts from outside the Group, as appropriate[, including experts and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth,] to contribute to discussions on specific issues considered by the Group.

6. The Informal Advisory Group will primarily conduct its work online and, subject to the availability of resources, will also meet in person.

7. The Informal Advisory Group is to start its work immediately after the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

³³⁷ See [CBD/MCB/WS/2025/1/2](#).

³³⁸ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

Item 18 (d)**Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: biodiversity and agriculture**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [27/9](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Biodiversity and agriculture

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [VI/5](#) of 19 April 2002, [VIII/23](#) of 31 March 2006, [X/34](#) of 29 October 2010, [XIII/3](#) of 17 October 2016 and [15/28](#) of 19 December 2022,

Noting the importance of soil biodiversity to achieve multiple global commitments, including the Rio conventions, by contributing to solutions to support climate change mitigation and adaptation and address biodiversity loss and desertification, land degradation and drought,

Noting also the significant lack of recognition of the role of fungal biodiversity in soil and agricultural biodiversity policies, and the opportunity for strengthening such recognition,

Recognizing that the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity are key to achieving food security and nutrition and critical to soil organic carbon storage, while contributing to the achievement of multiple goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³³⁹

Recognizing also the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries and the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity,

*Recognizing further the importance of restoring soil health and increasing soil organic carbon storage as part of the nexus approach to biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change, as described in *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, towards achieving multiple targets of the Framework,*

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity,³⁴⁰ and takes notes of the barriers and opportunities in national implementation summarized in document [CBD/SBSTTA/27/8](#), in which the need to intensify taxonomic research, address gaps in knowledge about fungal biodiversity and strengthen the mobilization of sustainable financial resources is emphasized;

2. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including through the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory, to continue to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action, involving Parties, other Governments, subnational governments at all levels and relevant organizations, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through national reports and global assessments and through the provision of capacity-building and technological transfer to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, as appropriate, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical

³³⁹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

³⁴⁰ Decision [15/28](#), annex.

and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;³⁴¹

3. *Encourages* Parties to integrate the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity into their [national biodiversity strategies and action plans and into climate and land policy instruments through biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning conducted in a participatory manner][national plans], as appropriate;

[4. *Invites* Parties to enhance coordination among the agricultural, environmental and health sectors to mainstream sustainable soil biodiversity initiatives across other sectoral plans, policies and strategies, in line with the Framework and ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;]

5. *Also invites* Parties to strengthen cooperation among national focal points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury,³⁴² the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,³⁴³ the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,³⁴⁴ the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants³⁴⁵, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,³⁴⁶ the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,³⁴⁷ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³⁴⁸ and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in order to implement coherent actions to address the conservation and restoration of soil biodiversity and soil health and their interlinkages with pollution control, in accordance with their respective mandates and with national circumstances and priorities;

6. *Further invites* Parties[in a position to do so], multilateral funds and relevant organizations to provide[financial resources,] capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technological transfer and the training of experts to expand research on soil biodiversity, including through innovative digital tools, to support developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, in order to establish and strengthen the monitoring of soil biodiversity, including community-based monitoring that engages in an effective manner indigenous peoples and local communities, farmers, pastoralists, women and youth and encourages them to implement the Plan of Action;

[7. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to identify, eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, and invites them to scale up positive incentives[and to redirect them towards promoting biodiversity-friendly practices in soil biodiversity protection, conservation and management], as applicable;]

8. *Invites* relevant global and regional organizations, as well as academic institutions and agricultural research institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth to address the knowledge gaps in soil biodiversity, including fungal biodiversity, strengthen taxonomic capacities and promote interdisciplinary research linking soils, climate, human health and food systems;

³⁴¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³⁴² *Ibid.*, vol. 3201, No. 54669.

³⁴³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

³⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2244, No. 39973.

³⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2256, No. 40214.

³⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

³⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

³⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

9. *Notes* the ongoing work on microorganism and invertebrate genetic resources, as well as on biodiversity for food and agriculture, conducted by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and welcomes the request made by the members of the Commission at its twentieth session that the Secretariat of the Commission engage with potential partners, including the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the establishment of a global pollinator platform, subject to the availability of resources;

10. *Welcomes* the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and encourages Parties and other Governments, to strengthen the implementation of the Initiative by enhancing actions, notably with regard to wild pollinators, according to national legislation and circumstances;

[11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to engage with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on work related to soil biodiversity and pollinators, including through a global pollinator platform, as referred to in paragraph 9;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and relevant conventions and organizations, especially those mentioned in paragraph 5, in accordance with their respective mandates, on the development of relevant tools and voluntary guidance and the promotion of capacity-building activities on reducing the impacts of pollution on soil biodiversity, including through the evidence-based use of fungal biodiversity for soil restoration, taking into account the specific challenges faced by developing countries, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Soil Partnership, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and other relevant organizations, to continue efforts to develop harmonized methodologies and compatible indicators for the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, ensuring that any developed methodology does not create additional reporting burdens, remains within the respective mandates of each entity and avoids the duplication of efforts, to ensure that the data thus generated are accessible, interoperable and integrated into the Framework, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit the present decision to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Convention on Wetlands, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the International Resource Panel and other biodiversity-related conventions and entities of the United Nations system, in particular those involved in the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,³⁴⁹ in order to encourage enhanced synergies among them and maximize co-benefits for the climate, biodiversity and food security.]

³⁴⁹ See General Assembly resolution 73/284.

Item 18 (e)**Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: invasive alien species**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [27/8](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Invasive alien species

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [16/18](#) of 1 November 2024, in which it recognized the urgent need to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³⁵⁰ in particular its Target 6, that increasing the availability and accessibility of information and means of implementation and addressing major knowledge gaps on biological invasions, in particular in developing countries, would result in more robust and effective policy instruments and management actions and that additional efforts and cooperation are particularly needed to improve data collection in the African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, and Pacific regions,

Recalling also that, to address the challenges posed by invasive alien species, it highlighted the relevance of coordination and collaboration across sectors in its decisions [XII/17](#) of 10 October 2014, [14/11](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/27](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/18](#),

Noting that improved, non-biased data accessibility and information-sharing are vital for making progress towards Target 6 of the Framework,

[Emphasizing the important connection between invasive alien species and climate change,]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity³⁵¹ during the current intersessional period, including the hosting of the discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species and the convening of the fourteenth meeting of the Liaison Group;

2. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments, relevant organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and indigenous peoples and local communities, [women and youth,] [and other stakeholders] [to implement the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health], as appropriate:

(a) To improve the collection, analysis, storage, availability and sharing of data on impacts, pathways of introduction and spread, especially through international trade, including online trade, occurrences and management measures with regard to invasive alien species identified in their territories, in order to support efforts towards addressing Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(b) To [consider the use of][use] integrated and collaborative approaches that bring together relevant sectors, including the private sector, to address the challenges posed by invasive and potentially invasive alien species to biodiversity, nature's contributions to people and human well-being;

(c) To strengthen cross-sectoral and cross-border collaboration [among countries and regional mechanisms [in order to implement the One Health approach] in relation to the management of invasive alien species];

³⁵⁰ Decision 15/4, annex.

³⁵¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

- [3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources:
- (a) To coordinate with relevant conventions and organizations and to collaborate with the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, avoiding the duplication of efforts, on:
 - (i) The compilation of information and lessons learned on how relevant government agencies can improve cross-sectoral collaboration at the national and regional levels, to address the challenges posed by invasive alien species, including through the use of integrated approaches;
 - (ii) The exploration and proposal of strategies to enable early detection and rapid response to support the collection, sharing and mobilization of data, so as to reduce the time lag between the detection of an invasive alien species and information availability;
 - (iii) The development of training materials on emerging detection tools, for example, predictive modelling of species range shifts to identify areas most vulnerable to invasion in the context of climate change, environmental DNA analysis[, synthetic biology] and artificial intelligence-based detection;
 - (iv) The enhancement of technical capacity and the facilitation of technology transfer, especially for developing countries, to support data collection, monitoring and the management of invasive alien species;
 - (v) The organization of an online forum to facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned;
 - (b) To continue to improve the invasive alien species portal,³⁵² including by enhancing the availability of information on globally significant invasive alien species and on national lists of invasive alien species maintained by Parties and by making its content available in the six official languages of the United Nations, in order to support the implementation of Target 6 of the Framework;
 - (c) To submit the outcomes of the work described above to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

³⁵² www.cbd.int/invasive.

Item 18 (f)**Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: biodiversity and health**

The following draft decision has been reproduced from recommendation [27/10](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Biodiversity and health

The Conference of the Parties,

Highlighting the relevance of biodiversity and health interlinkages to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³⁵³ as underlined in section C, subparagraphs 7 (g) and (r), of the Framework,

Recalling paragraph 8 of its decision [16/19](#) of 1 November 2024, in which it invited Parties, other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations to share measures, guidance and tools, examples, best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health³⁵⁴ and the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages at all levels,

Recalling also paragraph 3 of the same decision, in which it encouraged Parties to carry out actions related to the implementation of the Global Action Plan and facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages,

Recognizing the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and holders of traditional knowledge related to health and well-being, and the importance of their full and effective participation in the implementation of the Global Action Plan,

Recognizing also the urgent need for capacity-building and financial resources to support the implementation of the Global Action Plan,

Emphasizing the importance of integrating health considerations into the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans,

[*Recognizing* the long-standing collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity³⁵⁵ and the World Health Organization,]

[1. [*Takes note of*][*Welcomes*] *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* (“nexus assessment”) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including its summary for policymakers and its key messages, as well as the 71 response options, and highlights its relevance to work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health;]

[2. *Welcomes* the adoption of the WHO Pandemic Agreement, and notes the potential for synergies with the implementation of the Framework;]

3. *Invites* Parties to create, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, an enabling environment for the implementation of the Global Action Plan;

4. [*Also invites*][*Encourages*][*Urges*][, in accordance with Article [20](#) of the Convention,] developed country Parties[and other Parties in a position to do so], international and regional organizations and the private sector, among others, to provide financial resources to support the

³⁵³ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

³⁵⁴ Decision [16/19](#), annex.

³⁵⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

implementation of the Global Action Plan in developing countries and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, among others, in its implementation;

[5. *Urges* Parties to apply the One Health approach [by promoting the use of international guidelines][, taking into account sanitary, phytosanitary and environmental measures, as appropriate, and international guidelines, where applicable];]

[5. alt. *Urges* Parties to apply the One Health approach on the basis of scientific evidence, including completed risk assessments, and by promoting the use of internationally agreed standards and guidelines;]

6. [Requests][Encourages] the Global Environmental Facility to provide [new additional and predictable] financial support for the implementation of the Global Action Plan, according to its mandate;

[7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To complete the work conducted pursuant to paragraph 13 (a) of decision [14/4](#) of 22 November 2018 on the development of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health, as requested in paragraph 9 (a) of decision [16/19](#), through a participatory process, and taking into account:

(i) Existing information, to avoid a reporting burden, from, among others, the Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and other United Nations entities, including the discussions on health-related indicators in relation to adaptation to climate change used in the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, adopted at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,³⁵⁶ as well as any relevant action under the global action plan on climate change and health of the World Health Organization;

(ii) Scientific information from all regions;

[(b) To [provide opportunities][convene an expert workshop, [with representation from all regions nominated by Parties,]] to review the list of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health, before their consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;]

(c) To compile and synthesize information from Parties, other Governments, subnational governments at all levels, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations on measures, guidance, indicators and tools, examples, best practices and lessons learned, including those integrating equity, human rights and gender-differentiated considerations, in the implementation of the Global Action Plan and the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages at all levels, and to make the information available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention or on its website, as appropriate;

[(d) To continue and strengthen cooperation on biodiversity and health with relevant organizations and partners, including the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health[,the International Union for Conservation of Nature], the Cooperation on Health and Biodiversity Initiative [and non-governmental organizations]];

[(e) To resume the activities of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health co-chaired by the Secretariat of the Convention and the World Health Organization;³⁵⁷]

(f) To continue to facilitate capacity-building activities, scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer to support Parties in implementing the Global Action Plan;

³⁵⁶ Ibid., vol. 3156, No. 54113.

³⁵⁷ See www.cbd.int/health/ilg-health.

(g) To submit a report on the outcomes of its work for consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

Item 19

Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention will consider agenda item 19 jointly with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, on the basis of recommendation [6/8](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Options for further improving the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [16/25](#) of 1 November 2024,

Recognizing the need to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity³⁵⁸ and its Protocols and ensure inclusiveness, transparency and equity, taking into account the needs of developing country Parties,

Reiterating the important role of technology in supporting the efficiency and effectiveness of meetings, without prejudice to decision-making by consensus,

[Reaffirming the importance of securing funding to allow for [more than one delegate][at least two delegates] for each developing country Party to participate and engage effectively in meetings,]

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of measures to improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, as described in document [CBD/SBI/6/9](#), takes note of the summary of submissions for improving the effectiveness of meetings contained in the same document, and notes the need to encourage more Parties to contribute to such improvement;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the pilot on the early submission of statements carried out for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and the application of the modalities for such submissions on a trial basis at subsequent meetings of the subsidiary bodies, as well as identified challenges, benefits and experiences associated with the use of the pilot to improve the efficiency of meetings;

3. *Takes note* of General Assembly resolution 79/318 of 18 July 2025 and the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations in order to keep pace with a changing world and to make it fit for present and future challenges;

[4. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, youth and other relevant organizations to continue to participate actively in the early submission process whenever used for subsidiary or governing body meetings, [and explore ways for the online submissions to be][provided that online submissions are] translated and made available in the six official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of resources;]

[5. *Requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:

(a) To continue to improve the modalities for the early submission of statements;

(b) To apply the modalities on a voluntary basis to all the agenda items of future meetings of the subsidiary and governing bodies of the Convention and its Protocols;]

³⁵⁸ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

6. *Encourages* Parties to cooperate in streamlining meeting agendas and decisions;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and, as appropriate, in consultation with the Bureaux:
 - (a) To hold, where possible, online briefing sessions for Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other stakeholders on the agenda items ahead of intergovernmental meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols, providing the overall context, an overview of the main agenda items and a summary of past discussions and outcomes;
 - [(b) To develop and make available briefing materials on applicable meeting procedures of the subsidiary and governing bodies of the Convention and its Protocols;]
 - [(c) To prepare an analysis of the possible use of technological tools for expediting decision-making processes;]
 - (d) To finalize the decision-tracking tool and make it fully operational to clearly track the implementation status of decisions of the Conference of the Parties;
8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux, as appropriate:
 - (a) To streamline the agendas of meetings, including through the possible reduction of the number of agenda items, with a view to ensuring focus on matters requiring consideration by Parties;
 - (b) To continue to explore and make use of, as appropriate, relevant ways to improve the effectiveness of the processes under the Convention and its Protocols, taking into account relevant practices under other multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations processes, as summarized in annex I to document [CBD/SBI/6/9](#), as well as the responses to relevant notifications of the Secretariat of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) To invite submissions from Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other stakeholders on options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols specifically with regard to the engagement of observers, and to pilot the options and lessons learned in the intersessional period leading to the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - [(d) To continue to facilitate training sessions on the management of multilateral negotiations for representatives identified to serve as chairs of subsidiary bodies and working and contact groups or as facilitators for friends of the chair groups;]
9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To fully implement paragraph 13 (a) of decision [16/25](#) and to limit the number and length of working documents, while ensuring that all the information required for decision-making is included therein and made available in the six official languages of the United Nations;
 - (b) To report on the outcomes of the work requested in paragraphs 7 to 9 of the present decision and submit a draft analysis of options to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at [its eighth meeting][a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties];
- [10. *Decides* to establish a Party-driven process to further improve the effectiveness of the processes and meetings under the Convention and its Protocols;]
- [10. alt *Requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to consider measures for the further improvement of processes under the Convention and its Protocols, with the support of external experts, as necessary;]

Item 20

Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

The following draft decision has been reproduced from document [CBD/COP/17/8](#).

Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [16/36](#) of 27 February 2025 in which it decided to review and update the multi-year programme of work up to 2030 at the present meeting,

- 1. Decides to adopt its multi-year programme of work up to 2030, as set out in the annex to the present decision;*
- 2. Requests the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of its Bureau, to prepare the list of issues related to the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties for the period beyond 2030 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting.*

Annex

Issues related to the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties to be addressed at its eighteenth and nineteenth meetings

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Issues summarized in the form of agenda items</i>
Eighteenth meeting (2028)	Matters related to mechanisms supporting the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity^a and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework^b • Planning, monitoring, reporting and review • Resource mobilization and financial mechanism • Digital sequence information on genetic resources, including the review of effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund • Issues related to Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities • Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation • Mainstreaming and subnational engagement • Communication, education and public awareness Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework • Strategic review and analysis of the programme of work • Synthetic biology • Sustainable wildlife management • Marine and coastal biodiversity • Invasive alien species • Biodiversity and health • Review of liability and redress in the context of Article 14 of the Convention • Implications for the work of the Convention of the following assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: ◦ Methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people

^a United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

^b Decision [15/4](#), annex.

Meeting	Issues summarized in the form of agenda items
	○ Methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity
	Processes under the Convention and its Protocols Issues related to the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols
Nineteenth meeting (2030)	Matters related to mechanisms supporting the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework • Second global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework • Follow-up to the Framework • Resource mobilization and financial mechanism • Digital sequence information on genetic resources, including review of the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund • Final review of and follow-up to the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030),^c the strategy for resource mobilization for the period 2025–2030,^d the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development^e and the programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030^f • Update on other matters related to implementation support mechanisms • Issues related to Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including the review, revision and update of the programme of work, for the period beyond 2030 • Communication, education and public awareness Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework • Strategic review and analysis of the programme of work • Consideration of the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services • Synthetic biology • Sustainable wildlife management • Biodiversity and climate change • Marine and coastal biodiversity • Biodiversity and agriculture Processes under the Convention and its Protocols • Issues related to the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

Note: See the annex of document CBD/COP/17/8 for a summary of relevant decisions and recommendations.

^c Decision [15/11](#), annex.

^d Decision [16/34](#), annex I.

^e Decision [15/8](#), annex I.

^f Decision [16/9 A](#), annex.

Items 21 to 23

No draft decisions are envisaged under items 21 to 23, owing to the nature of those items. The actions required on the part of the Conference of the Parties under those items are reflected in the annotated provisional agenda.
