

SHARM EL-SHEIKH DECLARATION INVESTING IN BIODIVERSITY FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

We, the ministers and other heads of delegation, having met with the occasion of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 2018¹, on 14 and 15 November,

Biodiversity Mainstreaming

Reaffirm that biodiversity and ecosystems are the fundamental infrastructure that supports all forms of life on Earth. They are essential not only for the provision of all natural services, but also for underpinning economic growth and sustainable development;

Note that human health depends on biodiversity in multiple ways, and that the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services negatively impacts human health;

Note that the increase in human population and rapid urbanization projected over the coming decades will lead to significant demand for resources associated to various economic and development related sectors, including energy and mining, infrastructure and manufacturing and processing, posing significant risks to biodiversity and ecosystems, but could also present multiple benefits to society, if managed in an inclusive and sustainable manner;

Recognize that virtually all economic sectors, including energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing, as well as health, rely on the services provided by nature, including the provision of raw materials, freshwater, and protection against natural disasters;

Note that the loss of such services has an impact on all aspects of human life, including on global resources and development opportunities, as well as on business models, trade relations and regional relations, among social aspects that may gravely affect the future of the world for the rest of the century and beyond;

Note that indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, civil society, local governments and authorities, the business sector, and other non-state actors, have an essential role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, given that they have a direct impact on sustainability choices;

Underline that we need to form alliances to mainstream biodiversity across sectors to better align goals, actions and resources, feeding into a coordinated approach on biodiversity- sustainability actions, as a center piece for the transition to sustainable development, hand in hand with safeguarding and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem functions;

Reaffirm our commitment to:

Work at all levels within our governments and across all sectors to mainstream biodiversity, establishing effective institutional, legislative and regulatory frameworks, tailored to national needs and circumstances, and incorporating an inclusive and transformative economic, social and cultural approach with full respect for nature and human rights, through the following actions:

- (a) Ensure that the multiple values of biodiversity are well integrated in legislative and policy frameworks, development and finance plans and policy processes at all levels;
- (b) Apply best practices for timely strategic environmental assessments, and environment impact assessments, including fully utilizing guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to report on measures taken to avoid or minimize impacts on biodiversity by specific economic sectors, including energy and mining, infrastructure and manufacturing and processing, as well as health, and to improve practices and contribute to ecosystem restoration and sustainability;
- (c) Utilize upstream planning tools, such as integrated spatial planning, to consider all available options for achieving sectoral needs, while avoiding or minimizing impacts on biodiversity;

¹ Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, 17 to 29 November 2018; High-level Ministerial Segment of the meetings, 14 to 15 November 2018, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

- (d) Expand dialogue and exchange experiences and best practices among all actors involved in infrastructure development, particularly urban expansion, to enhance thematic and sectoral cooperation between cities and regions, and to mainstream the principles of healthy cities in urban planning, management, decision making and development;
- (e) Mainstream biodiversity and health linkages into policies, plans and strategies in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and regional and national development agendas;
- (f) Develop policy and legislative frameworks to create financial and non-financial incentives, including *inter alia* with regard to public procurement procedures and law enforcement, aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity in development sectors, consistent with international obligations;
- (g) Strengthen the development and application of nature-based approaches to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation, while simultaneously contributing to biodiversity objectives;

Urge the business sector, financial institutions and other stakeholders to apply the above actions, as appropriate, and increase and improve best standards and practices for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and use social and environmental safeguards in decisions concerning sustainability measures and investments;

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Commit to redouble efforts to fully implement all decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to make progress on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including the mobilization of international and national resources for their achievement;

Encourage integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a manner that contributes to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and make use of national reports in the context of future Global Sustainable Development Reports;

Invite the United Nations system, indigenous peoples and local communities, academics, civil society, international organizations, the business sector, and other stakeholders to strengthen their contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity;

Further Action in the lead-up to 2020

Welcome the development of the process for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework (“New Deal for Nature”) to be adopted at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Commit to:

- (a) develop an ambitious, transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework rooted in systems transition, building on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, through enhanced strategic collaboration and cooperation with other State and non-State actors, to further achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;
- (b) mobilize actions to reduce nature-based risks and leverage nature-based solutions, resources and other natural innovations and technologies, to further achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (c) act to develop voluntary national biodiversity commitments commensurate with existing international commitments on biodiversity, to be announced before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020, contributing to the implementation of the post-2020 “New Deal for Nature”;

Invite the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene a Heads of State Nature Summit (Nature Summit 2020) before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020, to highlight the urgency for action at the highest levels in support and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a post 2020 “New Deal for Nature”.