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INFORMAL BRIEFING BY THE CO-CHAIRS ON
THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY
FRAMEWORK

Montreal, Canada, 24 November 2019
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

REPORT ON THE INFORMAL BRIEFING BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework provided an informal briefing on the work of the Open-ended Working Group in Montreal, Canada, on 24 November 2019. The present report provides an overview of the presentations made and discussions held during the informal briefing.

BACKGROUND

1. An informal briefing on the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was held in Montreal, Canada, at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization on 24 November 2019, back-to-back with the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

ITEM 1. INTRODUCTION

2. The informal briefing was opened at 10.30 a.m. by Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada), the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group.

3. An opening statement was made by Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ms. Mrema noted the high attendance at the briefing, a sign of the importance of the process and the desire to contribute. The meetings of the past and coming weeks would play an important role in the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and in addressing the links between nature and culture. The Working Group on Article 8(j) had met the previous week to discuss the contributions of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The previous day, the co-authors of the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services¹ had briefed participants on the evidence arising from recent reports, and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was poised to begin its twenty-third meeting to further inform the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including on long-term goals, mission, targets, indicators, baselines and monitoring frameworks. In May 2020, the Subsidiary Body on

¹ <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>

Implementation would hold its third meeting, to formulate further guidance on the means of implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

4. With the guidance of the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group, the Secretariat had conducted regional consultations and would be reporting on those consultations as part of the current briefing. Such meetings were important for a common understanding of status, trends and ways forward, especially in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group had been convened in Nairobi at the end of August 2019. The second meeting would be held in Kunming, China, in February 2020, and the third in Cali, Colombia, in July 2020.

ITEM 2. WORKPLAN OVERVIEW

5. Mr. Ogwal reviewed the progress to date, which had been informed by the overarching principles set out in decision [14/34](#), annex, section A. To date, the Co-Chairs had engaged with the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The first two of the thematic workshops that would inform the process, on ecosystem restoration and marine and coastal biodiversity, had been held, and the Open-ended Working Group had held its first meeting. At its first meeting, the Open-ended Working Group had reviewed the post-2020 process, defined the scope and structure of the global biodiversity framework document and developed a work plan. At its second meeting, it would negotiate goals and targets, update the work plan as necessary and consider any other issues, and, at its third meeting, it would consider the remaining elements of the global biodiversity framework document and negotiate and adopt the final draft for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. Mr. Ogwal also reviewed the other, external, processes that would feed into the post-2020 process, and said that thematic consultations would be led by colleagues who would continue to assist the Co-Chairs until the end of the post-2020 process.

6. Mr. van Havre spoke about the global biodiversity framework document, which would be regularly updated, with the zero draft in all official languages of the United Nations to be issued on 13 January 2020, an updated version following the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and a third version before the third meeting of the Working Group. The zero-draft document would be the focus of negotiations and would be supported by a glossary and a large reference document containing background information for each target. Mr. van Havre went on to describe how the Co-Chairs would coordinate with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to produce the subsequent versions of the global biodiversity framework document prior to its finalization at the third meeting of the Working Group.

2.1. Debriefs from completed processes

7. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. David Cooper, speaking on ecosystem restoration, provided an update on the outcome of the thematic workshop held in early November 2019. The key messages of the workshop were:

(a) Ecosystem restoration: restoration generated outcomes for nature, culture and society and supported the Sustainable Development Goals and climate objectives, and an ambitious, overarching and holistic global restoration target that was outcome-oriented and considered all ecosystems was needed, as were synergies with existing international and national commitments;

(b) Implementation: it was critical to distinguish between initial states and restoration outcomes; effective restoration required spatial planning, prioritization and large-scale implementation across ecosystems; restoration needed to consider integrated landscape and seascape approaches; restoration should be participatory and inclusive, with emphasis on traditional and indigenous knowledge, gender equity and youth engagement; international cooperation was needed for net positive outcomes and sharing the restoration burden; a global restoration fund was needed; monitoring, evaluation and assessment were continual processes and should be conducted on the basis of a national plan that included quantified baselines and participation of all actors; the gap between national action and international ambition needed to be assessed to ratchet up national commitments; and financial and institutional resources had to be mobilized and capacity built, as appropriate, at the proper scale.

8. Mr. Joseph Appiott of the Secretariat spoke about the work being done on marine and coastal biodiversity and reported the outcome of the post-2020 thematic workshop, held with the support of the Governments of the Republic of Korea and Sweden as part of 2020 Ocean Pathways Week, in conjunction with a meeting on “Advancing Ocean Action Towards Sustainable Development Goal 14: Leveraging Synergies for Marine and Coastal Ecosystems, Mangroves and Coral Reefs”. The workshop had included briefings on the findings of the major recent assessments on coral reefs, migratory species, fisheries, area-based conservation measures, mangroves and wetlands. The issues of focus for 2030 milestones were: threatened, endangered and declining species; the exploitation of marines living resources; marine pollution; ecosystem restoration; important marine ecosystems; and area-based planning and conservation measures. Issues that needed more discussion were: regional approaches; marine spatial planning; the exploitation of non-living resources; and climate change and ocean biodiversity. Participants had advocated focusing on economic growth, social well-being and equity aspects, in addition to conservation and improving understanding of how measures and approaches fit across different targets.

9. Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions for its eleventh meeting, reported on the relevant outcomes of that meeting, which had been held the previous week. Agreement had been reached on a process for the development of a new programme of work on traditional knowledge and an expanded role for indigenous peoples and local communities as on-the-ground partners in the post-2020 implementation of the Convention. The Working Group on Article 8(j) had considered recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the contributions of indigenous peoples to the management of ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity and a set of actions and commitments in relation to conservation and human rights in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It had also considered possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, an item that was also on the agenda of the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. In addition, it had held an in-depth dialogue on the contributions of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and cultural diversity to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Finally, Mr. Zedan informed the participants that the Secretariat had organized a global thematic dialogue for indigenous peoples and local communities and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework prior to the meeting, and that the Working Group on Article 8(j) had recommended that the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework take note of the outcomes of that dialogue.²

2.2. Debriefs on key upcoming processes

10. Chairs of subsidiary bodies and representatives of the Secretariat made brief presentations on the work they were doing and how it would feed into the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

11. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, said that, at the request of the Open-ended Working Group, the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-third meeting would be considering guidance on specific long-term goals, mission, targets, indicators, baselines and monitoring frameworks related to the drivers of biodiversity loss for achieving transformational change within the scope of the three objectives of the Convention and, at its twenty-fourth meeting, would be validating the targets discussed during the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

12. Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, Chair of Subsidiary Body on Implementation, provided an update on the work of that body. At its third meeting, in May 2020, the Subsidiary Body would consider important means of implementation with an impact on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It would also discuss monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, including a Party-led review mechanism for providing

² See recommendation 11/1 of the Working Group.

recommendations to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework development process, and consider recommendations from the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity.

13. Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda of the Secretariat provided an overview of work on area-based conservation measures. A three-day thematic workshop on the topic scheduled for the first week of December would provide an opportunity to: take stock of work done and lessons learned to date; obtain inputs for the use of the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group; explore the relationship between area-based conservation measures and other elements of the 2050 vision; and discuss baselines, indicators and monitoring for area-based conservation measures.

14. Mr. Markus Lehmann of the Secretariat provided an overview of biodiversity mainstreaming post-2020 and reported on the work done to date by the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity. He also provided an update on work on resource mobilization, introducing the newly appointed members of the panel of experts on resource mobilization and noting that the Government of Germany would host a thematic workshop on resource mobilization in Berlin from 14 to 16 January 2020 to consider the gaps identified by the panel of experts and provide concrete proposals for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its second meeting and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.

15. Mr. Erie Tamale of the Secretariat, reporting on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, spoke about the work being done on a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, pursuant to decisions XIII/23 and 14/24. Among other things, a global thematic consultation would be held on 1 March 2020 to: discuss draft elements of the long-term strategic framework as well as proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation; identify strategies and mechanisms for fostering greater synergies, cooperation and coordination with other international processes and leveraging existing capacities and opportunities. The conclusions of the consultation would be provided to the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group. The draft long-term strategic framework would be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting, in May 2020, and to the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting, in July 2020. The final draft would be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

16. Ms. Nadine Saad of the Secretariat provided an overview of the issues surrounding implementation support, reporting and review. A thematic consultation would be held in Kunming, China, before the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, and an expert workshop on implementation and review mechanism would be held in either March or April 2020. At its third meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation would test a Party-led review process, consider a report on options to enhance review mechanisms and make recommendations on review mechanisms. Formal consideration of the review mechanisms would take place during the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

17. Mr. Peter Deupmann of the Secretariat provided an overview of biosafety and the work of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol at its thirteenth meeting. A draft of the biosafety component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework had been developed and had been communicated to the Co-Chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group for their consideration when developing the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

18. Mr. Worku Yifru of the Secretariat provided an update on the work being done on digital sequence information. A meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources was planned for March 2020 to consider views and information submitted and peer-reviewed studies conducted pursuant to decision 14/20. The Open-ended Working Group would consider the outcome of that meeting and formulate recommendations on how to address the matter in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. He also noted that, at its eighth session, the [Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#) had adopted a resolution on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity with respect to digital sequence information.

19. Mr. Yifru also reported on work being done on access and benefit-sharing. A global thematic consultation on the topic had been held in Nairobi in August 2019, prior to the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group; the report and associated documents were available on the Secretariat's [website](#). The Secretariat was exploring possibilities for further consultations, ideally in conjunction with the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, which would allow for inclusion of the contribution of the Compliance Committee under the Nagoya Protocol and the outcome of the March 2020 meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.

20. Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp of the Secretariat provided a brief update on sustainable use, informing the participants that the Secretariat was in the process of preparing a scoping note and organizing a thematic consultation on the topic.

21. In response to questions from participants during the discussion under agenda item 3, Mr. David Ainsworth of the Secretariat also provided a brief overview of the role of the communications in changing behaviour and an update on the outcome of the recent expert workshop on the communications strategy for 2020. He said that the Secretariat was developing a 10-year review of communications at Secretariat for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its second meeting.

ITEM 3. PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW OF THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

22. The Co-Chairs presented their conceptual approach and key elements of their vision for the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Mr. Ogwal said that the framework had attracted a great deal of interest from business, civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities and all levels of government, and that it would set goals for everyone, not just define a process under existing and future conventions. He then presented the vision and goals of the framework for 2050 and its 2030 mission, which included the 2030 goals, the actions required to achieve those goals and the tools and solutions for those actions. He said that the 2050 vision remained unchanged and that the goals for 2050 needed to address the three objectives of the Convention and take into account species, ecosystems and benefit-sharing. To achieve the goals for 2050, it was first necessary to consider the goals for 2030, which should be stepping-stones to 2050. The goals for 2030 had three aspects: species and ecosystems, in which genetic diversity was embedded; sustainable use; and the people that would benefit from the exploitation of nature.

23. Mr. van Havre spoke about the mission statement. He explained that the 2020 mission statement had been overly broad, making it difficult to understand and remember. The 2030 mission statement would be a stepping-stone to the 2050 vision for biodiversity, and should be action-oriented and inspirational, capturing the milestones along the way to reinforce the need for urgent action. He urged participants to resist the temptation to continually add to the mission statement once selected, to avoid creating a mission statement no one would ever read. He then explained how the proposed framework would focus on action targets, means of implementation and tools and solutions, and how they were interconnected: means of implementation, enabling conditions and tools and solutions could contribute to more than one action, and several actions or targets could contribute to more than one goal.

3.2. Question-and-answer session

24. Following their presentation, the Co-Chairs answered questions from participants. During the discussion, participants flagged elements to be given further consideration in the development of the framework, including:

(a) Mainstreaming, and the need to give it more prominence as a central tool for implementation; mainstreaming aligned work under the Convention with the Sustainable Development Goals and the need to extend beyond just agriculture, fisheries and forestry;

(b) The 2030 goals, how they fit in relation to the 2050 vision and goals, and the advisability of having 2030 milestones rather than goals or targets;

(c) Separation of the means of implementation and the enabling conditions;

- (d) Increased ambition of the 2050 vision to reflect transformational change;
- (e) Simplicity and the need for the framework to be easy to communicate while at the same time touching on all aspects of the Convention;
- (f) Indirect drivers, and the need to give them more prominence, and perhaps even to structure the framework around them;
- (g) Water ecosystems, both ocean and inland, and the need to include them in the discussion and avoid excessively land-centric language;
- (h) Subtargets, and the need to either add to them for the sake of completeness or, alternatively, to eliminate them altogether for the sake of simplicity;
- (i) How to involve the governing bodies of the related conventions in the development of the framework so that they become actively engaged in implementation;
- (j) How a focus on increasing biodiversity rather than on stemming biodiversity loss could achieve the objectives of the Convention as well as the broader sustainable development agenda.

25. In addition, a representative of the United Nations University informed the participants about the outcome of the Expert Thematic Workshop on Landscape Approaches for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Parties at the workshop had been fairly united on the idea that landscape approaches were a good way to integrate elements, stakeholders and resources at the landscape level, and that taking such an approach at the landscape level naturally led to integrated policy at higher levels. Using a landscape approach was also more effective than sectoral and other kinds of approaches in bringing together the biodiversity-related conventions to address direct and indirect drivers. A shift to an integrated approach could itself be seen as transformative change. The report of the workshop, which contained concrete recommendations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, would be submitted to the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group.

ITEM 4. CLOSING STATEMENT

26. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Co-Chairs declared the informal briefing closed at 1.35 p.m. on 24 November 2019.
