



Convention on Biological Diversity

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OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Fourth meeting
Nairobi, 21–26 June 2022

DRAFT REPORT

Background

1. The fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was held in Nairobi from 21 to 26 June 2022.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and Governments: *[to be completed]*

3. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended: *[to be completed]*

4. The following organizations were also represented: *[to be completed]*

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened at 10.20 a.m. by the Co-Chair, Basile van Havre.

6. Opening statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Inger Andersen; the Minister for Ecology and Environment of China, Huang Runqiu; and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema.

7. Ms. Andersen said that findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in line with those of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and other scientific processes, that global warming was putting biodiversity and ecosystems at risk of extinction demonstrated the need for a transformative global biodiversity framework and its urgent implementation across the whole of government and the whole of society. Following recent major environmental forums on climate change, desertification, chemicals and waste, the spotlight had now fallen on biodiversity and its Convention. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework was critical to endeavours to end the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. She outlined areas where progress was needed at the current meeting, including defining ambition and measurability; strengthening planning, reporting and review; resource mobilization; and digital sequence information on genetic resources. Conceding that finding common ground was not always easy, she warned that the planet and human health were under serious threat owing to biodiversity loss and urged participants in the current meeting to make one last push in preparation for the Conference of the Parties, in order to build a framework that would help every human and every other species to thrive.

8. Mr. Huang, speaking on behalf of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties, thanked the Government of Kenya for the thoughtful arrangements for the meeting. Noting steady progress in the global biodiversity conservation process, thanks to widespread efforts and contributions, he cautioned that the

ongoing decline in global biodiversity had not, however, been fundamentally curbed and urged all parties to work hard to reverse the process. Recalling the announcement by the President of China, Xi Jinping, of the establishment of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and his country's contribution of 1.5 billion yuan, he said that the fund and the adoption of the Kunming Declaration (CBD/COP/15/5/Add.1) had given a strong political impetus to the consultations on the global biodiversity framework. In March 2022, at the second part of the Working Group's third meeting, parties had demonstrated a shared willingness to seek common ground while reserving differences, laying a solid foundation for follow-up negotiations. He hoped that parties would seize the opportunity afforded by the current meeting to strengthen their political will to adopt the framework, and to push for substantive progress on such key topics as digital sequence information on genetic resources and resource mobilization and agree on a clean text for the framework. Notwithstanding divergences in the current negotiations on the text, all parties were strongly motivated to strengthen the conservation of global biodiversity and to put biodiversity on the track of restoration before 2030. Accordingly, he hoped that all parties, in the spirit of international cooperation and multilateralism, would work together to build a fair and reasonable global biodiversity governance system in which every party did its share.

9. Ms. Mrema welcomed participants to the fourth meeting, which had returned to Kenya, site of the Working Group's first meeting in 2019 and, as the cradle of humankind, the perfect setting for parties to commit themselves anew to the essential task before them. She thanked the President of the Conference of the Parties, Mr. Runqiu, for his leadership, with his colleagues, in preparing for the current meeting. She also thanked UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi for hosting the meeting and commended the chairs of the subsidiary bodies for their leadership of those bodies, which had developed key recommendations that would form an inherent part of the post-2020 package to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties. She extended heartfelt thanks to the parties which had provided funding for the current meeting: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, and also the many other donors which had helped to cover the participation costs of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition: Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia and Sweden, and of indigenous peoples and local communities' representatives and experts: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Malta, Monaco, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, making possible the highest number of representatives ever to attend such a meeting. That said, a big shortfall still remained with regard to the required funds for the meeting, and she therefore called on other donors to step forward.

10. Over the nearly four years since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the adoption of the landmark decision that had set the current process in motion, much had been accomplished, raising the profile of biodiversity in the international arena and drawing increased political attention to biodiversity in major forums. Public calls for action to safeguard nature – led by the world's youth – were growing stronger by the day, while nature continued to suffer the impacts of biodiversity loss. While a solid foundation had been laid for work at the current meeting, much remained to be done to deliver an agreement that could bend the curve of biodiversity loss, contribute to the achievements of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, and facilitate the achievement of the 2050 Vision of the Convention. Great importance was therefore attached to the current meeting, the last chance, before the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to not only shape the framework but also demonstrate the power of international cooperation and multilateralism.

11. She announced that, owing to continuing concerns related to the ongoing global pandemic, China, with the support of the Bureau and following consultations with the Bureau, the secretariat and the Government of Canada, had decided to relocate the second part of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Montreal, Canada, where it would be held from 5 to 17 December 2022.

12. The representative of Canada said that her country was proud to host the Convention secretariat in Montreal and welcomed participants to that city for the second part of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties. Noting that up to 1 million species worldwide were at risk of extinction, she stressed the urgent need for global action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. To that end, Canada looked forward to collaborating with

China, as the holder of the Presidency of the Conference, and all parties in a joint endeavour to adopt an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

13. The representative of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties, Zhou Guomei, expressed thanks to Canada for its gracious offer to host the second part of the Conference's fifteenth session. She said that it had not been an easy decision, at such short notice, and China was therefore particularly grateful to the Executive Director of UNEP, the Executive Secretary of the Convention, the secretariat, the Bureau and the parties for their guidance and understanding.

14. Regional statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group), France (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States), Kuwait (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific region), New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Monaco, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and Senegal (on behalf of the African group).

15. Statements were also made by Costa Rica, speaking on behalf of a diverse group of 48 developing and developed countries, constituting the High Ambition Coalition; Colombia, speaking also on behalf of Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru; and Germany, speaking in its capacity as holder of the Presidency of the Group of Seven.

16. The representative of Ukraine, asking that his statement be placed on record, said that the unprovoked and unjustified war launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine was also an attack on the environment, causing serious damage to the natural heritage. He asserted that the bombing of fuel depots and gas lines was endangering ecosystems, and that environmental hazards were being created by the dispersal of military-origin heavy metals and toxic hazardous materials. Destroyed habitats, including of rare and endangered species, would take many years to restore. He said that damage had been caused over a vast area, measuring millions of hectares, of nature and biosphere reserves, national parks and other protected areas representing hotspots for biodiversity. In conclusion, he warned that war on the European continent posed an existential threat to the entire world and brought unprecedented and long-lasting challenges to the environment and human habitat.

17. The representative of the Russian Federation, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, under its mandate, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and even more so its working bodies, should not be involved in the discussion of conflicts, which was the prerogative of the Security Council, and that the statements by the representatives of Ukraine, the European Union and New Zealand, on behalf of a group of countries, were in direct breach of that mandate. He said that the issue of armed conflicts had never been discussed previously in meetings under the Convention and that he saw no reason why an exception should be made for Ukraine. Accordingly, in his view, the statements by the aforesaid representatives testified to the erosion of the Convention as a global platform for discussion by Member States of environmental challenges in the field of biodiversity. Addressing issues of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation should unite countries, not divide them.

18. Statements were also made by representatives of the following organizations on behalf of major groups and stakeholders: International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB); CBD Women's Caucus; Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN); CBD Alliance; BirdLife International, on behalf of a group of 10 non-governmental organizations; the Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change of Quebec, on behalf of the local and subnational governments stakeholder group; the Business for Nature Coalition; and the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation.

19. A statement was made by the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Ivonne Higuero, on behalf of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, concerning the role of those conventions in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In addition, a statement was made by the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, by video link, concerning the conclusion of the

eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and the support that it would bring to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Adoption of the agenda

20. At the first plenary session of the meeting, on Tuesday, 21 June 2022, the Working Group adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (CBD/WG2020/4/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organization of work.
3. Reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Convention.
4. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closing statements.

Election of officers

21. At the first plenary session of the meeting, the Working Group noted that the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties would serve as the Bureau of the Working Group and decided that Leina Al-Awadhi (Kuwait) would act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

Organization of work

22. At the first plenary session of the meeting, the Working Group considered the organization of work proposed by the Co-Chairs, as set out in the annotated provisional agenda (CBD/WG2020/4/1/Add.1) and in the scenario note prepared by the Co-Chairs (CBD/WG2020/4/1/Add.2).

ITEM 3. REPORTS FROM THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

23. At the first plenary session of the meeting, on Tuesday, 21 June 2022, the Working Group heard reports on intersessional work from the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The Working Group had before it the reports of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on its third meeting (CBD/SBI/3/21) and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-fourth meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/24/12). The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, Charlotta Sörqvist, reported on the work of that body at the second part of its third meeting, and also on intersessional work, including the workshop on options to enhance planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/ID/WS/2022/1/3) and the informal consultations on resource mobilization (CBD/WG2020/4/INF/6). The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, then reported by video link on the work of that body at the second part of its twenty-fourth meeting, and also on intersessional work, including a technical analysis of indicators proposed for the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3) prepared for the expert workshop on the monitoring framework for that framework to be held in Bonn from 29 June to 1 July 2022.

ITEM 4. POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

24. At the second plenary session of the meeting, on Tuesday, 21 June 2022, the Working Group took up agenda item 4. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3), draft elements of a possible decision operationalizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.3), the outcomes of the work of the

Working Group during the second part of its third meeting (CBD/WG2020/3/7), the glossary for the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/4/2), and the reflections by the Co-Chairs following the first session of the third meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/WG2020/3/6). The Working Group also had before it the following information documents: observations and reflections by the co-leads of contact groups 1–4 on the outcomes of the resumed third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/WG2020/4/INF/1) and science briefs on targets, goals and monitoring in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework negotiations (CBD/WG2020/4/INF/2).

25. The Co-Chair introduced agenda item 4, on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, commending the progress that had been made on the development of the framework, primarily through contact groups at its third meeting. Noting that the various parts of the framework were at different stages of development, he outlined those areas to which attention should be given at the current meeting and suggested the appropriate modus operandi for their consideration. He also provided an update on the issue of milestones and drew attention to the proposal before the meeting on that issue (CBD/WG2020/4/INF/5). Representatives were invited to consider the milestone elements in the discussions on relevant goals, targets and sections, as specified in the proposal. He also noted that the Glossary had been updated and, while it was not intended to negotiate the Glossary, if it was deemed helpful to update a definition, it would be duly updated.

26. Statements were made by Brazil and Norway.

27. At the third plenary session of the fourth meeting, on Friday, 24 June 2022, the Working Group heard reports from the co-leads of the contact groups, on the work done in the contact groups.

28. The Co-Chairs then reviewed the status of progress on the framework and outlined a suggested approach to further work.

29. The meeting had before it draft elements of a possible decision operationalizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.3), which had previously been made available to the Working Group at the first part of its third meeting and had then been revised in the light of the comments made at that time. Owing, however, to time constraints, it had not been further considered at the second part of that meeting. The Co-Chairs invited the Working Group to consider the draft decision as part of its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at the second part of its fifteenth session.

30. Statements were also made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, France (speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Niger, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Uganda, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

31. Some parties in their statements requested that an opportunity be provided for them to submit further written inputs for the draft decision.

32. A statement was made by the representative of the Holy See.

33. Further statements were made by the representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, speaking also on behalf of IIFB; GYBN, on behalf of youth; the CBD Women's Caucus, on behalf of women; the Agroecologia Universidad Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of the academic and research sector; and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), on behalf of non-governmental organizations.

ITEM 5. DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON GENETIC RESOURCES

34. At the second plenary session of the meeting, on Tuesday, 21 June 2022, the Working Group took up agenda item 5. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it the outcomes of its third meeting (recommendation 3/2) contained in the report on the second part of its third meeting (CBD/WG2020/3/7), a note by the Executive Secretary on digital sequence information on genetic resources (CBD/WG2020/4/3)

and the outcomes of the work of the informal co-chairs' advisory group and other relevant activities (CBD/WG2020/4/INF/4).

35. A statement was made by the co-lead of the informal co-chairs' advisory group on digital sequence information on genetic resources, Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni.

36. At the third plenary session of the meeting, on Friday, 24 June 2022, the Working Group heard a report from the co-lead of the contact group on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

37. *[to be completed]*

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

38. The present report was adopted at the *[to be completed]* plenary session of the meeting on *[to be completed]*, on the basis of the draft report presented by the Rapporteur (CBD/WG2020/4/L.1).

ITEM 8. CLOSING STATEMENTS

39. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the second meeting of the Working Group closed at *[to be completed]* on 26 June 2022.
