



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/COP/15/16
17 December 2022

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Fifteenth meeting – Part II
Montreal, Canada, 7–19 December 2022

REPORT ON THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT 15–17 DECEMBER 2022

A. Introduction

1. A high-level ministerial segment of part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the fourth 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 to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Montreal, Canada, from 15 to 17 December 2022. The high-level segment was attended by ministers of environment, other heads of delegation and ministers, and other high-level representatives of the infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, energy and mining and health sectors, as well as representatives of national and international organizations, local authorities and subnational governments, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities and youth.

B. Cultural presentation

2. The opening statements were preceded by a performance of musical piece Golden and Silver Birds, performed by two folksingers of the Yi ethnic group of Yunnan province, China.

C. Opening statements

3. Runqiu Huang, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China and President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, opened the high-level segment at 10.20 a.m. on 15 December 2022.

4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Runqiu noted the presence of over 200 ministerial-level participants, a sign of strong political will behind the objectives of the Conference, and urged delegations to use the high-level segment as a platform for building consensus and resolving difficult issues that could less easily be addressed at the technical level. Progress had been made, but complex issues remained: now was the time to show the leadership required to bring about change.

5. Opening statements were also made by Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China (by pre-recorded video); Csaba Kőrösi, seventy-seventh President of the United Nation General Assembly; Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Steven Gilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada; Wang Xiangang, Vice-Governor of Yunnan; François Legault, Premier of Quebec; and Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

6. *[President Xi's remarks to be completed]*

7. Mr. Körösi said that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework had to deliver a new level of global biodiversity governance, with a strong, science-based mechanism to allow biodiversity to flourish, based on four pillars. First, the approach to biodiversity loss issues must be human rights-based, ensuring the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples. Second, the economic drivers behind negative behaviours must be addressed, with radical changes to what was subsidised and incentivized and governments guiding business to invest in the circular economy. Third, priority must be given to solidarity in financing and capability-building: the post-2020 global biodiversity framework required a comprehensive resourcing package directed primarily at low- and middle-income countries. Fourth, new metrics and science-based tools for verification were needed, to measure the gains and losses in the natural world, meaning that national and global accounting systems must be transformed to put a stop to greenwashing. The outcome of the current biodiversity conference would bring biodiversity issues into the General Assembly and, most importantly, into the Sustainable Development Goal Summit 2023.

8. Ms. Mohammed said that the future of the natural world, and by extension humanity's future, was at a crossroads. The current level of biodiversity destruction came at catastrophic cost. Cascading events of massive wildlife loss and the coronavirus disease crisis were clear signs that it was time to reset humanity's relationship with nature. The current conference had achieved significant progress already but an added push was needed to arrive at an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensure its implementation. The developing world was home to a very large majority of biodiversity and therefore required the support of the developed world to maintain this global good through fair and equitable deployment of the framework. The benefits derived from digital sequence information on genetic resources should be shared in a far more transparent manner, in particular with Indigenous Peoples. National plans must be put in place, involving all sectors of society to ensure their implementation. Historic levels of investment were called for, and governments alone could not foot the bill. The corporate world must do its part in protecting the natural sources of its wealth. The historic opportunity to protect the web of life must not be missed.

9. Mr. Gilbeault cited Canadian artist Joni Mitchell's prophetic work of the early 1970s, already attuned to the danger of biodiversity loss and highlighting the need to live in harmony with nature, rather than dominate it. Humanity was now faced with a race against time. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework must be ambitious and set clear targets and actions addressing key drivers of biodiversity loss. The "30 x 30" goal, of protecting 30 per cent of land by 2030, was critical to healing nature fully by 2050. To do so, the framework must address the twin issues of biodiversity loss and climate crisis. There had been many calls for improved, transparent and accessible funding. Canada was ready to engage in that action, and was now the Global Environmental Facility's seventh largest contributor. Moreover, Prime Minister Trudeau had recently announced a significant increase in Canada's direct assistance to developing countries. Donor countries should be held accountable for their commitments, but there was also a need to unlock corporate, development bank and philanthropic support. Success depended on full engagement and concrete action.

10. Mr. Wang described the Province of Yunnan as an area of great biological importance, encompassing 6,000-metre mountain ranges and deep, tropical valleys and gorges, among the most biodiverse regions in China and a natural gene bank for China and the world. The province was striving to be a leader in biodiversity protection, leading to marked improvements. Previously endangered species, such as the Asian elephant, were once again starting to thrive. Water and air quality had improved, with a current 98 per cent score for "good air days" in the province. Yunnan's carbon emissions were 20 per cent lower in 2020 than in 2015, with work on increasing green energy generation ongoing. The approach adopted involved the holistic management of green expansion and growth, linking biodiversity protection to economic expansion, low carbon development and the promotion of the sustainable use of biological resources.

11. Mr. Legault recalled his recent announcement that the Government of Quebec was to invest CAD \$650 million to protect 30 per cent of Quebec territory and endangered species. He described the St. Lawrence River, which drained 25 per cent of the world's fresh water resources, as a great responsibility, and pledged to introduce a bill on water protection which would drastically increase fees for water

extraction in Quebec, and to establish a “blue fund” that would eventually reach CAD \$150 million annually to protect the water course. Four days of the biodiversity conference remained: now was the time to act, to make shared pledges. Humanity could no longer pass its errors on to future generations to correct. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework must be put in place to protect 30 per cent of land and water by 2030 and turn the situation around.

12. Ms. Maruma Mrema highlighted the leadership role that Montreal was taking in sustainable biodiversity. Biodiversity was needed to fight climate change, combat poverty and guarantee food security and was critical to most of the Sustainable Development Goals, but was being lost at a faster rate than ever before. The world needed an ambitious but realistic post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Kunming Declaration and Kunming Biodiversity Fund offered a glimmer of hope, which must now be transformed into bold action. The issue of digital sequence information on genetic resources was complex but a solution providing social justice must be found. Over half of global gross domestic product was at risk from biodiversity loss, so efforts must be directed at monetizing biodiversity. Decisions taken at the conference would influence not just the next two decades, but the next two millennia and beyond.

D. Moderated discussion

13. During opening session of the high-level segment, a moderated discussion was held on supporting implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, moderated by Mr. Runqiu. The discussion was broken into three segments: (i) supporting implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; (ii) collaboration across conventions to achieve the ambitions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and (iii) how international organizations plan to mobilize the world to deliver on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

1. Supporting implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

14. In the first segment, five leaders from the United Nations system and the Global Environment Facility were asked to speak about how they planned to support Parties in implementing the global biodiversity framework. The panellists were Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe; and Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environmental Facility.

15. Ms. Andersen said that UNEP would contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 framework by focusing on the five drivers of biodiversity loss: land-use change and fragmentation, overexploitation, pollution, climate change and invasive species. It would leverage, among other instruments and frameworks, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework; the Environment Management Group; the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; the United Nations Resident Coordinators System; and the Global Environment Facility. UNEP was also working under its Finance Initiative to promote much-needed financial sector reforms, including a shift towards nature-positive investments, nature-related financial disclosure requirements and ways to assess wealth and well-being beyond gross domestic product. Finally, UNEP stood ready to help build national capacities in the area of digital sequence information, which was expected to be part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

16. According to Mr. Steiner, UNDP had been a longstanding partner of national governments in their pursuit of sustainable development and remained committed to supporting countries in their efforts to protect and sustainably use ecosystems and biodiversity. As a follow-up to the current meeting, it had pledged to work in three key areas. First, it would drive a change in the development discourse in order to correct the distortions that were at the heart of the biodiversity crisis. Second, it would support the necessary shifts in the financial and economic systems to translate science, knowledge and passion into transformative action. Lastly, it would advance changes in policies and practices to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. He encouraged representatives to reach agreement on the global biodiversity framework

by focusing on their common objectives rather than their different interests and recognizing the efforts already undertaken and the need to act together to maintain the essence of life on the planet.

17. Ms. Sharif said that cities must develop differently in order to halt and prevent biodiversity loss. Both the quantity and the quality of urbanization affected biodiversity. City governments must avoid the mistakes of the past, including urban sprawl, segregation and wasteful infrastructure, and instead design and built cities to be compact, integrated and connected. It was also crucial to manage entire landscapes rather than individual sites, and to collaborate with other levels of government and other stakeholders. She drew attention to UN-Habitat initiatives to support biodiversity, including the United Nations Common Approach to Biodiversity; Housing 2030; and a partnership with UNDP to “localize” the Sustainable Development Goals and provide innovative programming on urban resilience.

18. Ms. Algayerova, speaking on behalf of the five regional economic commissions of the United Nations, said that the commissions played a unique role in helping the regions develop tailor-made solutions to the common global drivers of biodiversity loss. With their profound understanding of regional and national needs and their unique convening role, they also served as platforms for translating global decisions into practical national actions. The commissions would continue to support member State in implementing the 2030 Agenda and mainstreaming biodiversity into their societies, economies and institutions, including by developing policy frameworks that secured the right to a safe, healthy and clean environment; fostering collaboration and dialogue between and within regions to address biodiversity-related challenges; strengthening the capacities of member States to mobilize investments; and identifying opportunities for internal policy alignment and coherence. She urged member States to demonstrate their commitment to halting biodiversity loss by approving the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the action plan for the long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, which the commissions would help them operationalize.

19. Mr. Rodríguez said that during the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, covering the period 2022–2026, the biodiversity focal area had received a record-setting \$2 billion in pledges, nearly 40 percent of the \$5.3 billion total, which was itself record-setting. In absolute terms, biodiversity funding had increased by 50 percent from the seventh replenishment period. Up to 60 percent of the total replenishment amount was expected to contribute to the framework’s implementation. The Global Environment Facility would support the framework’s implementation through a set of integrated programmes aimed at addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss, continued capacity-building support for the implementation of the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols and assistance to Parties in mobilizing domestic resources through the development and implementation of biodiversity financial plans.

2. Collaboration across conventions to achieve the ambitions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

20. In the second segment of the discussion, the question of how key conventions would contribute to the implementation of the global biodiversity framework and how the latter might support coherence and synergy across conventions was addressed by leaders of key conventions: Daniele Violetti, Senior Director of Programmes Coordination, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on behalf of Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC; Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; Ivonne Higuero, Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, on behalf of the executive leads of the eight global biodiversity-related conventions constituting the Biodiversity Liaison Group; and Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

21. Mr. Violetti, noting that one third of climate solutions emanated from the management, conservation and restoration of land and marine ecosystems, said that nature was essential to maintaining the 1.5°C global warming limit and to creating resilient societies. Those societies, alongside net-zero nature-positive economies, generated well-being, jobs and growth. In addition to continuing its emphasis on the important interlinkages between nature and climate change, the UNFCCC secretariat was committed to helping in the vital task of driving a transformational finance agenda for the global biodiversity framework.

The global community must change its interaction not only with nature but also with indigenous peoples and local communities by diversifying the knowledge relating to adaptation policies and practices. Through building a common vision, the work of the UNFCCC could be a collective force for the attainment of all such goals.

22. Mr. Thiaw said that a strong and ambitious global biodiversity framework could amplify the successes of other conventions and vice versa. To restore the health and productivity of terrestrial ecosystems was to protect habitats, store carbon and build resilience to climate change. Global biodiversity framework goals and targets for accelerating integrated action on land restoration and drought resilience would be both hugely helpful in meeting the land degradation neutrality targets and a tremendous win for biodiversity, climate, and species conservation. In adopting a “30 by 30” target that met the needs of all countries, it was crucial to break down silos and deliver together. By aligning land degradation targets, nationally determined contributions and the new biodiversity targets, the gap between commitment and action could be closed to provide protection for land and biodiversity and for humans from climate change for the good of all.

23. Ms. Higuero said that elements of the future global biodiversity framework were very relevant to commitments made under the biodiversity-related conventions to address specific threats to biodiversity and contribute to meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing. The governing bodies of those conventions had agreed to identify opportunities, in line with their respective mandates, for promoting achievement of the goals and targets of the new framework. Such opportunities would be instrumental in supporting countries in the effective implementation of the framework, especially if they included in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans priorities agreed under conventions to which they were a party. As a result, collaboration, coherence and complementarity would be facilitated to ensure effective and efficient actions in the interest of fulfilling the shared vision of living in harmony with nature.

24. Ms. Stankiewicz said that the parties to the Minamata Convention had recently recognized the interlinkage between mercury pollution and biodiversity loss and set a pathway for achieving synergy and coherence with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions. Mercury affected the physiology and survival of animals, increased existing pressure on species and affected ecosystem functions and services, as well as livelihoods and health. Information gathered through the continuous monitoring and modelling of its environmental levels could be readily provided to support monitoring efforts under the global biodiversity framework, which could also be strengthened through effective collaboration on mercury-related issues across conventions. An ambitious framework would amplify the goals of protecting biodiversity and ending chemical pollution to realize the vision of a world in harmony with nature, to which the Minamata Convention stood ready to contribute.

*3. How international organizations plan to mobilize the world
to deliver on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*

25. In the third segment of the discussion, the leaders of key international organizations were asked to address the questions of how, in a context where international organizations would be critical in driving the delivery of the global biodiversity framework, their organizations would help galvanize urgent action to deliver on the framework. The panellists were Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization; Ana María Hernández, Chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); Dario Mejía, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Mrinalini Rai, Director of the CBD Women Caucus; Yannick Glemarec, Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund; Peter Thomson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Ocean; Kolan Bharath Reddy, Interim Director of the CBD Alliance; Marco Lambertini, Director General, World Wide Fund for Nature International.

26. Mr. Lodge described that mandate of the International Seabed Authority, which he said offered the best example available of international collaboration for environmental protection while at the same time allowing for the sustainable use of a shared resource. Data-sharing was critical for that, and over the past

15 years his organization had invested more than \$260 million in environmental studies. Stringent environmental regulation was needed to ensure that activities in the deep oceans took place with the consent of, and supervised by, States party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The full and equal participation of developing countries was fundamental to the success of multilateral initiatives as was collaboration between international organizations, that fully respected their mandates. All had to work together to implement globally agreed targets, including those of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

27. Ms. Eliot said that the main drivers of the biodiversity loss were linked to human activity, which also contributed to disease emergence in both humans and domestic animals. Her organization was well known for its standards, which had improved the health and welfare of domestic animals, but its mission also extended to the adoption of a wildlife health framework aligned with the goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Achieving that required both transformative change in the treatment of nature and genuine collaboration. Her organization was a part of the Quadripartite Alliance, which aimed to mitigate the impact of related health challenges. One Health as adopted by that alliance recognized that animal and ecosystem health would directly contribute to the goals of the framework, and her organization welcomed the draft decisions being considered at the conference.

28. Mr. Oberle said that his organization provided an interface between science, policy and practice. Its data, standards and tools informed conservation at all levels, including national; defined targets and tracked progress towards global goals for nature; and were backed by a wide network of experts. The present meeting offered a unique opportunity to set a clear path towards a nature-positive society and economy, but that required a bold, ambitious yet practical post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Mechanisms to track the implementation of the targets under the framework were also needed to chart the course required. All actors, including governments, were responsible for the commitments made and answerable for negatively affecting biodiversity. In closing, he reiterated his organization's commitment to supporting Parties and other actors in their goal of achieving a vision of living in harmony with nature.

E. Visionary statement by a youth representative

29. At the opening session of the high-level segment, on 15 December, following the moderated discussion, Zhang Yan, a youth representative from the Province of Yunnan, shared an inspirational story of how her community had succeeded in living in harmony with migratory Asian elephants, with the support of the Government of China. She also called upon the ministers present to pay due attention to biodiversity conservation and the livelihood and development of local communities and to conserve biodiversity and join together to build a harmonious and beautiful world.

F. Ministerial consultations

30. At the opening plenary session of the high-level segment, on 15 December, Mr. Runqui informed the meeting participants that he had established a process of ministerial consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and had invited six ministers to lead consultations on unresolved issues that might benefit from political guidance. Thus, Jochen Flashbarth (Germany) and Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya (Rwanda) would lead consultations on resource mobilization; Espen Barth Eide (Norway) and Maisa Rojas (Chile) would lead consultations on digital sequence information; and Yasmine Fouad (Egypt) and Steven Gilbeault (Canada) would lead consultations on the key unresolved elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

G. Keynote addresses

31. At the second session of the high-level segment, on 15 December, keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Salazar, Ms. Hernández and Mr. Mejía.

32. Mr. Salazar said that the protection of biodiversity and the climate were two sides of the same problem. At ICAO, much progress had been made at forty-first assembly, where a resolution had been adopted setting a goal of net zero carbon dioxide emissions from international aviation by 2050, which would accelerate the aviation sector's journey to decarbonization. Achieving that objective required

measures delivering concrete results among, including the new standards being implemented by ICAO and its new carbon offsetting scheme. Biodiversity was also an important consideration of much of the organization's work, including forest fire mitigation, species protection near airports, prevention of wildlife trafficking and development of sustainable aviation fuels. ICAO and the Convention had the common objectives of climate and biodiversity protection, pollution reduction and cleaner energy systems, and parties could count on ICAO for support of those objectives.

33. Ms. Hernández said biodiversity was declining at its fastest rate ever, which was affecting the quality of life on earth, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was the last opportunity to reverse that. IPBES had provided a robust scientific knowledge base through its 10 assessments, the clear message of which was that transformative change was required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 vision for biodiversity. For that, it was necessary to address both the direct and indirect drivers of the biodiversity loss that had resulted from human behaviour, needs and values. To address that, it would be necessary to reduce consumption, waste, inequalities and harmful incentives. Nature had to be valued in decision-making at all levels and action was required to place biodiversity at the centre of all sectors of the economy.

34. Mr. Mejia said that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had been established to examine indigenous issues. At its twenty-second session the Forum had heard about the contributions and challenges of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Indigenous Peoples understood their territory and the rules of Mother Earth were reflected in their relationship with her. Their way of life and integral knowledge systems made an important contribution: they represented 6.2 per cent of the global population but protected at least 80 per cent of the remaining biodiversity in the world. The Forum had recommended that the indigenous territories be recognized as a category separate from protected areas or other area-based conservation as an action of historical justice. The relevant targets of the framework should include indicators for Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous women faced unique challenges in their role of stewards and protectors of biodiversity and their views and participation had to be recognized.

35. At the third session of the high-level segment, on 16 December 2022, keynote addresses were delivered by Ms. Azoulay, Ms. Rai and Mr. Glemarec.

36. In her remarks, Ms. Azoulay said that the international community had already mobilized towards attainment of the 30x30 target through the many UNESCO-designated world heritage sites, biosphere reserves and geoparks, which together protected over 6 per cent of the planetary land surface. World heritage sites alone were a precious source of data, observation and knowledge now readily accessible via the newly launched pilot version of the UNESCO Biodiversity Portal. It was furthermore natural for UNESCO to highlight indigenous peoples, with their ancestral knowledge, as the best guardians of biodiversity, which went hand in hand with linguistic and cultural diversity as part of a whole. Convinced that the defence of a new form of environmental ethics must start in schools, UNESCO was committed to ensuring that environmental education was a core curriculum component in its member States by 2025. In Montreal, it was time to reconcile all relations with nature by forging a new pact.

37. Ms. Rai said that the integration of gender into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework constituted a groundbreaking recognition of the rights of all women and girls at the heart of the Convention. By definition, a transformative, inclusive and human rights-based framework that effectively and equitably addressed the drivers of biodiversity loss through a whole-of-society approach must allow communities – including women as key biodiversity custodians – to engage in and benefit from sustained conservation efforts. To achieve that goal required a fully gender-responsive global biodiversity framework with a gender equality target, a gender plan of action with gender-responsive headline indicators to guide monitoring and reporting under the framework, resources adequate for fully operationalizing the framework, protection for women environmental human rights defenders, and legally binding social and environmental safeguards for new approaches. Gender equality and human rights were non-negotiable and must be part of the solution for creating harmony with nature.

38. Mr. Glemarec said that ecosystem protection and restoration were powerful solutions for averting catastrophic climate change, with safeguarding and strengthening of nature recognized as essential to a

liveable future. Urgent action was needed to address the interlinked global crisis of climate change and biodiversity and to protect, conserve, restore and sustainably use nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action. In driving transformative climate solutions for just transitions towards net-zero, climate-resilient and nature-positive economies, the Green Climate Fund worked to establish cohesive policy and institutional environments, catalyse climate innovation, de-risk early investment and support green financial systems. A number of its new ventures demonstrated strong linkages with biodiversity and ecosystems. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework could present operational opportunities in the context of the fund's updated strategic plan and in line with its long-term vision of complementarity, coherence and collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.

39. At the fourth session of the high-level segment, on 16 December, keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Thomson, Mr. Reddy and Mr. Lambertini.

40. Mr. Thomson said that the world's oceans contained 80 percent of the planet's biodiversity and must occupy a place in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that was commensurate with their critical planetary role, including their production of most of Earth's oxygen. The central question was whether world leaders embraced intergenerational justice or condemned the young and future generations to the dystopian reality of inhabiting a dark and unliveable world, marked by a near-term mass extinction and an average global warming of 3°C above pre-industrial levels. The latter scenario was a distinct possibility, as documented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPBES and the World Meteorological Organization. To avoid it, world leaders must adopt an outcome that achieved intergenerational equity and gave the planet a reprieve, much like the negotiators of the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which constituted a shining example of the positive change that multilateralism could deliver.

41. Mr. Reddy urged ministers to elevate human rights in the new global biodiversity framework by incorporating goals, targets and indicators firmly based on social science and gender differentiation. The new framework must aim to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples, women and local communities and reflect the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. High-income nations, most responsible for the global ecological crisis, must urgently reduce their exploitation of resources to sustainable levels and provide the necessary financial resources to developing countries. The new framework should avoid references to "all sources of finance", which could lead to a situation where 30 percent of the planet was protected using funds gained through the destruction of the remaining 70 per cent, or terms such as "nature-based solutions" and "nature-positive", which invited false solutions and greenwashing. He also called for an equitable, gender-sensitive, just and effective benefit-sharing mechanism for digital sequence information.

42. Mr. Lambertini, also speaking on behalf of Life International, Campaign for Nature, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society, said that there was an urgent need to achieve a "nature-positive" world in which there was more rather than less nature by 2030, which was a global goal that governments, businesses, investors, consumers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and societies could aim for. Ministers should resolve their differences and agree to an ambitious, human-rights-based, transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework that included building build a "nature-positive" world by 2030 as a clear and ambitious goal; an inclusive target to protect 30 percent of the planet by 2030; firm action to transform the drivers of nature loss and sustainably manage the remaining 70 percent of the planet; adequate resource mobilization and implementation mechanisms; and a commitment to nature-based solutions, with the appropriate safeguards. A strong framework was needed to unlock more funding, but more funding was in turn necessary for implementation, especially in developing countries.

H. Statements by representatives of Governments and organizations

43. At the first session of the high-level segment, on 15 December, interventions were made by ministers or high-level representatives of 36 Governments.¹
44. At the second session of the high-level segment, on 16 December, interventions were made by ministers or high-level representatives of 30 Governments.²
45. A statement was also made by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment.
46. Additional statements were delivered by the representatives of one United Nations entity and one intergovernmental organization,³ as well as by the representatives of seven non-governmental organizations.⁴
47. At the third session of the high-level segment, on 16 December, interventions were made by ministers or high-level representatives of 30 Governments.⁵
48. At the fourth session of the high-level segment, on 16 December, interventions were made by ministers or high-level representatives of 37 Governments,⁶ as well as by the representatives of three United Nations entities and one multilateral development bank.⁷
49. At the fifth plenary session of the high-level segment, on 16 December, interventions were made by ministers or high-level representatives of 15 Governments,⁸ by the representatives of 3 intergovernmental organizations⁹ and by the representatives of 2 multilateral finance institutions and 14 non-governmental organizations.¹⁰
50. Owing to a lack of time, pre-recorded video statements by ministers or high-level representatives of 6 Governments¹¹ and the representatives of 4 United Nations entities and intergovernmental

¹ Ecuador, Egypt, the European Union and its 27 member States, Gabon, Germany, Ireland, Niue, Rwanda and Türkiye.

² Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Estonia, Federated States of Micronesia, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Japan, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Slovenia, State of Palestine, Sweden, Tchad, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

³ African Union Commission; and the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

⁴ Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (also on behalf of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research); Finance for Biodiversity Foundation; Global Biodiversity Information Facility; International Tropical Timber Organization; Regions 4 Sustainable Development; and World Tourism Organization.

⁵ Albania; Barbados; Botswana; Cabo Verde; Colombia; Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African States); Democratic Republic of the Congo; Denmark; Finland; Guyana; Indonesia; Kenya; Libya; Malawi; Malta; Marshall Islands; Mauritania; Netherlands; Nicaragua; Palau; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Samoa; Saudi Arabia; Slovakia; Spain; Timor-Leste; Vanuatu; Yemen; and United States of America.

⁶ Algeria; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Croatia; Cuba; Ethiopia; Fiji; France; Greece; Guatemala; India; Italy; Kazakhstan; Liberia; Luxembourg; Maldives; Mexico; Mongolia; Morocco; Paraguay; Peru; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Serbia; South Sudan; Sri Lanka; Switzerland; Tanzania (United Republic of); Thailand; Togo; Trinidad and Tobago; Uganda and Uzbekistan.

⁷ Asian Development Bank; secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and World Bank.

⁸ Australia; Bahrain; Central African Republic; Grenada; Guinea; Israel; Jamaica; Kyrgyzstan; Madagascar; Malaysia; Niger; Seychelles; South Africa; Sudan; Tajikistan.

⁹ International Whaling Commission; League of Arab States; and secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

¹⁰ African Development Bank; Avaaz; Bird Life International; Central African Forest Commission; ClientEarth; Conservation International; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Future Earth; Greenpeace International; International Chamber of Commerce; International Institute for Sustainable Development; International Olympic Committee; Local Governments for Sustainability; The Nature Conservancy; Société pour la nature et les parcs (SNAP Québec); and Wildlife Conservation Society.

¹¹ Armenia, Belarus, El Salvador, Lithuania, Singapore, Viet Nam.

organizations¹² and of 1 multilateral development bank and 2 non-governmental organizations¹³ could not be played during the fifth plenary session, which was the last session for statements by Governments and organizations. The pre-recorded video statements would be made available on the web page of the meeting, at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cop-15-hls/documents>.

I. Closing

51. The closing plenary session of the high-level segment, on 17 November, began with Mr. Renqui's summary of the key messages heard during the high-level segment. His summary is set out in the annex to the present report.

52. A panel discussion was then held on contributions to the rapid implementation to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the outcomes of the main parallel events of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference. The panellists were Valerie Plante, Mayor of Montreal and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) global ambassador for local biodiversity; Liu Jiachen, Mayor of Kunming; Ellen Stofan, Smithsonian Under-Secretary for Science and Research and Co-chair of the Consortium of Scientific Partners; Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, Co-chair of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity; Xu Guang, Chinese non-governmental organization representative; Eva Zabey, Executive Director of Business for Nature; Jan Erik Saugestad, Chief Executive Officer of Storebrand Asset Management, for Finance for Biodiversity; and Liu Chunxi, Yili Group.

53. Ms. Plante said that cities were seeing the direct impacts of biodiversity loss on people's lives and were therefore essential partners in addressing it, including by mobilizing their populations to act. Cities and local governments were already taking measures to protect nature and safeguard biodiversity, including by protecting green spaces to prevent life-threatening heat waves, protecting riverbeds to prevent flooding, and banning the use of pesticides to protect pollinators. More action was needed, however, and cities were prepared to take it. At the current meeting, it was critical that world leaders formally recognize the role of cities and local governments in protecting biodiversity by adopting the proposed decision on engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The adoption of that decision would mark a turning point for biodiversity protection and the Convention.

54. Mr. Jiachen shared the outcomes of the seventh Summit of Subnational Governments and Cities, held in Montreal on 11 and 12 December, where participants had discussed the opportunities and challenges of local biodiversity conservation and agreed to take immediate action together. Summit participants had welcomed the new Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2021–2030) and adopted a series of initiatives and programmes to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through mechanisms such as the Advisory Committee on Cities and Biodiversity, the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity and the “CitiesWithNature” and “RegionsWithNature” partnership initiatives. At the summit, the city of Kunming had signed an agreement to establish a new centre of excellence that, in working closely with ICLEI, would support and build cities' capacity to implement the post-2020 framework.

55. Ms. Stofan spoke about the Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and Eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science, held in Montreal on 11 and 12 December. The key messages were that a shift was needed in financial and economic systems to reflect the value of biodiversity, potential led by natural capital, accounting and science-based standards; increased investment and cross-sectoral collaboration, including public-private partnerships, were essential to scale up nature-based and community-led solutions to improve biodiversity conservation and increase climate resilience; successful implementation of the post-2020 framework would largely depend on a robust monitoring framework, which required strengthening capacities, filling gaps in taxonomic, geographic and temporal coverage of

¹² Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization; Commonwealth; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Development Law Organization; International Fund for Agricultural Development; Union for the Mediterranean; World Health Organization; and World Intellectual Property Organization.

¹³ Aichi Prefecture of Japan; Agence française de développement; and Asian Development Bank

biodiversity data and more systematic data-sharing; and public engagement and education, especially of young scientists and researchers as agents of change, were the key to bringing biodiversity to the centre of decision-making. The scientific community was ready to do its part by providing the best knowledge to support decision-making.

56. Mr. Sherpa shared the outcomes of the Nature and Culture Summit, held in Montreal on 11 and 12 December, where Indigenous Peoples and local community representatives from around the world had renewed their commitment to the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity and undertaken to work together to promote the recognition of the contributions and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its implementation and monitoring. The new framework must recognize the diverse values of nature; recognize that nature and culture were inextricably linked to traditional knowledge; prioritize language revitalization and restoration; support and periodically review traditional knowledge indicators, particularly on linguistic diversity, land-use change, land tenure and traditional occupations and livelihoods; mobilize financial resources and promote their direct administration by Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and support the implementation of the joint programme of work.

57. Mr. Xu said that, including thanks to stakeholder guidance, support and cooperation, Chinese non-governmental organizations played a vital role in biodiversity conservation through their many wide-ranging activities. During the conference, they had organized events with other non-governmental organizations from around the world and contributed through presentations towards the continued enhancement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as part of the coordinated efforts to build the consensus critical to the framework's success, which demanded a constructive and flexible approach. Concerning action, cooperation and resource mobilization, they had concluded that efforts should focus in particular on indigenous peoples and local communities and that the Internet should be harnessed to heighten awareness of issues relating to conservation, nature and ecology. The aim was to produce an ambitious, balanced, pragmatic and achievable post-2020 global biodiversity framework that would succeed where the Aichi Biodiversity Targets had failed.

58. Ms. Zabey said that, at the recent Business and Biodiversity Forum event, many businesses had shared how they were assessing and disclosing their risks, impacts and dependencies on nature and how they were committing, acting and starting to transform their practices and strategies to protect, restore and sustainably use nature. An ambitious global biodiversity framework was needed, however, to provide political certainty and ensure that businesses contributed at scale and at speed. Such a framework must incorporate specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) targets for addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss, mandate all large businesses and financial institutions to assess and disclose impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and align all public and private financial flows to a nature-positive world with a robust resource mobilization strategy. In addition to stronger regulation, forward-looking businesses wanted their impacts to be recognized, rewarded or penalized as part of the transformation towards a nature-positive, net-zero and equitable world.

59. Mr. Saugestad said that, in addition to the first-ever Finance Day, many insightful sessions had been held in parallel with the conference on practical steps to be taken by the finance sector towards addressing biodiversity loss. The sector hoped that financial flows would be aligned with the agreed post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals and targets, with strong references made to disclosure requirements for businesses and financial institutions and with the leveraging of private biodiversity finance offered as a solution for closing the finance gap on nature. Disclosure regulations for all corporate and financial institutions should be established, central banks and financial supervisors should be supported to integrate nature-related risks into their regulatory frameworks, and transformation pathways should be requested for corporates and the finance sector, which should also be given economic incentives for incorporating nature into decision-making. Going forward, success in greening finance and in financing green was essential.

60. Mr. Liu said that his dairy farming company was engaged in biodiversity conservation as a strategic choice. To promote the best conservation outcomes, it had strengthened its executive structure, improved its management system and established a committee to analyse the biodiversity impact of its operations and

production and identify corresponding conservation actions using a life-cycle approach. Spanning the primary, secondary and tertiary industries, the company played a leading role in galvanizing the entire value chain and had a successful history of promoting the development of green infrastructure, in cooperation with upstream and downstream partners alike. It had also partnered with the World Wide Fund for Nature and the China Green Foundation to launch a series of public-interest projects, including to develop wetlands and protect elephant habitats and bird species, and with Indonesia to protect coral reefs. Businesses must act with all partners to find better and more effective solutions for building a community of life on Earth.

61. Following the panel discussion, participants heard from Manuel Pulgar Vidal, the Champion for the Action Agenda for Nature, who presented the report of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming to Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People, created in 2018 thanks to the initiative of the Governments of China and Egypt. The Action Agenda placed emphasis on the whole of society approach and instigated the ecological civilization vision. A whole of society approach was critical to success, with governments, cities, communities, Indigenous Peoples, culture, business, financial sector and science working together towards an ecological civilization through just transition. Clear, strong targets were needed to ensure effective action. The Action Agenda for Nature and People, the legitimacy of which was effectively based on its support from all sectors of society, would be further reinforced to maintain the momentum begun in Sharm El-Sheikh and promote rapid and immediate implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

62. A visionary intergenerational statement was also delivered by Lucy Mulenkei and Hector Alan Valdés Suárez, who conducted a dialogue, highlighting the importance among Indigenous Peoples of the practice of listening to all members of the community, especially children and youth. Mr. Valdés Suárez welcomed the intercultural dialogue the United Nations Biodiversity Conference had made possible, with the space made available for young people to be heard. Young people did not want magic answers to the problem, less still unsustainable responses; they were seeking action. The solutions to biodiversity loss existed already. They were living solutions, that could be learned from the wisdom of the elders. Ms. Mulenkei agreed on the need to have a better and closer relationship with Mother Earth. The issues were not about concepts, but about people, the land, territories and water. The answers lay in a human-rights-based approach to living in harmony with nature. Mr. Valdés Suárez said that thanks to the elders, the young could learn to protect their lands. He stressed the need for intergenerational dialogue to continue, so that the young could learn best practices by listening, and avoid pitfalls and mistakes and live in harmony with nature. Both speakers looked to the Parties to provide the framework required to face the future with confidence.

63. Ms. Mrema and Mr. Renqui made brief closing remarks, both noting that much remained to be achieved in the remaining two days of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference and urging Parties to meet each other halfway in order to adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

64. Mr. Runqiu then declared the high-level segment closed, at 11.10 a.m. on Saturday, 17 December 2022.

ADVANCE COPY

Annex

SUMMARY OF THE KEY MESSAGES HEARD DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

The following remarks were delivered by Runqiu Huang, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China and President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, during the closing plenary session of the high-level segment, on 17 December 2022.

[to be completed]
