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Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Seventeenth meeting
Yerevan, 19–30 October 2026
Agenda item 18 (d)
Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: biodiversity and agriculture

Biodiversity and agriculture

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group II

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions VI/5 of 19 April 2002, VIII/23 of 31 March 2006, X/34 of 29 October 2010, XIII/3 of 17 October 2016 and 15/28 of 19 December 2022,

Noting the importance of soil biodiversity to achieve multiple global commitments, including the Rio conventions, by contributing to solutions to support climate change mitigation and adaptation and address biodiversity loss and desertification, land degradation and drought,

Noting also the significant lack of recognition of the role of fungal biodiversity in soil and agricultural biodiversity policies, and the opportunity for strengthening such recognition,

Recognizing that the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity are key to achieving food security and nutrition and critical to soil organic carbon storage, while contributing to the achievement of multiple goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,[1]

Recognizing also the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries and the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity,

Recognizing further the importance of restoring soil health and increasing soil organic carbon storage as part of the nexus approach to biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change, as described in *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, towards achieving multiple targets of the Framework,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity,[2] and takes notes of the barriers and opportunities in national implementation summarized in document CBD/SBSTTA/27/8, in which the need to intensify taxonomic research, address gaps in knowledge

[1] Decision 15/4, annex.
[2] Decision 15/28, annex.

about fungal biodiversity and strengthen the mobilization of sustainable financial resources is emphasized;

2. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including through the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory, to continue to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action, involving Parties, other Governments, subnational governments at all levels and relevant organizations, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through national reports and global assessments and through the provision of capacity-building and technological transfer to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, as appropriate, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;[3]

3. *Encourages* Parties to integrate the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity into their national planning instruments in line with all relevant targets of the Framework, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and legislation;

4. *Invites* Parties to enhance coordination among the agricultural, environmental and health sectors to mainstream sustainable soil biodiversity initiatives, including technical assistance and rural extension, across other sectoral plans, policies and strategies, in line with the Framework and ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, farmers' organizations and, in particular, smallholders and family farmers and agroecological producers, as appropriate;

5. *Also invites* Parties to strengthen cooperation among national focal points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury,[4] the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,[5] the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,[6] the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants[7], the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,[8] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[9] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in order to implement coherent actions to address the conservation and restoration of soil biodiversity and soil health and their interlinkages with pollution control, in accordance with their respective mandates and with national circumstances and priorities;

6. *Invites* Parties, multilateral funds and relevant organizations to provide [financial resources][, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,] as well as capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technological transfer [on mutually agreed terms] and/or training for experts to expand research on soil biodiversity, including through innovative digital tools, in order to establish and strengthen the monitoring of soil biodiversity, including community-based monitoring that engages in an effective manner indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, farmers and pastoralists, and encourages them to implement the Plan of Action;

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[4] Ibid., vol. 3201, No. 54669.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1673, No. 28911.
[6] Ibid., vol. 2244, No. 39973.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2256, No. 40214.
[8] Ibid., vol. 996, No. 14583.
[9] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[10] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[7. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to scale up positive incentives[, with developed country Parties taking the lead,] and mainstream biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices in soil biodiversity protection, conservation, management and sustainable use, such as those directed to family farmers and agroecological producers, as applicable and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances;]

[7. Alt.1 [*Urges*][*Invites*] Parties and other Governments to [identify, eliminate, phase out or] reform incentives[, including subsidies,] in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way[, with developed country Parties taking the lead,] and scale up positive incentives and mainstream biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices in soil biodiversity protection, conservation, management, and sustainable use, such as those directed to family farmers and agroecological producers, as applicable and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances;]

[7. Alt.2 *Urges* Parties and other Governments to identify, eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, [with developed country Parties taking the lead,] while substantially and progressively reducing them, and to scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity;]

8. *Invites* relevant global and regional organizations, as well as academic institutions and agricultural research institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth to address the knowledge gaps in soil biodiversity, including fungal biodiversity, strengthen taxonomic capacities and promote interdisciplinary research linking soils, climate, human health and food systems;

9. *Notes* the ongoing work on microorganism and invertebrate genetic resources, as well as on biodiversity for food and agriculture, conducted by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and welcomes the request made by the members of the Commission at its twentieth session that the Secretariat of the Commission engage with potential partners, including the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the establishment of a global pollinator platform, subject to the availability of resources;

10. *Welcomes* the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and encourages Parties and other Governments, to strengthen the implementation of the Initiative by enhancing actions, notably with regard to wild pollinators, according to national legislation and circumstances;

11. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to engage with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on work related to soil biodiversity and pollinators, including through a global pollinator platform, as referred to in paragraph 9 above, building on existing initiatives and avoiding duplicated efforts;

[12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and relevant conventions and organizations, especially those mentioned in paragraph 5 above, in accordance with their respective mandates, on the development of relevant tools and the promotion of capacity-building activities in accordance with national legislation on reducing the negative impacts of relevant pollution[11] on soil biodiversity, including through the use of innovative science-based approaches for soil restoration, including those based on fungal biodiversity, taking into account the specific challenges faced by developing countries, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

[11 Which could include, but is not limited to, trace elements, heavy and hazardous metals[, excess nutrients lost to the environment, pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals,][in line with Target 7 of the Framework].]

Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

13. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Soil Partnership, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and other relevant organizations, to continue efforts to develop harmonized methodologies for the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, ensuring that any developed methodology does not create additional reporting burdens, remains within the respective mandates of each entity and avoids the duplication of efforts, to ensure that the data thus generated are accessible, interoperable and integrated into the Framework, prioritizing data from national soil monitoring systems, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit the present decision to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Convention on Wetlands, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the International Resource Panel and other biodiversity-related conventions and entities of the United Nations system, in particular those involved in the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,[12] in order to encourage enhanced synergies among them and maximize co-benefits for the climate, biodiversity and food security.

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[12] See General Assembly resolution 73/284.