

Informal session in preparation for the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. February 2021

**Statement of Portugal** on the Agenda Item 3 - **Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines**

*Thank you, Madam Chair.*

*(Distinguished SBSTTA Chair*

*Distinguished Executive Secretary*

*Distinguished Co-Chairs)*

*Distinguished Delegates*

Portugal wishes to thank the Secretariat and the SBSTTA-Chair for organizing this virtual meeting, and for the preparation of this agenda item and all related documents. Although this is an informal meeting, we *believe* it has a very important role in developing the work for the formal sessions and in keeping the momentum towards COP15.

Portugal *supports* a strong monitoring framework as a fundamental tool for a robust monitoring, reporting, stocktake and review mechanism that will contribute to an effective implementation of the action targets and also to an efficient communication of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Therefore, we think that the monitoring framework constitutes an integral part of the Post-2020 GBF and it should be adopted at the same time at COP15.

We *support* the proposed structure of the monitoring framework, which aims to ensure a common basis for monitoring and reporting on the Post-2020 GBF through the headline indicators, while providing a wider set of component and complementary indicators that allow for different levels and scopes in monitoring and reporting on the progress made towards goals and targets, by Parties and other stakeholders.

Portugal *considers* the proposal of 48 Headline Indicators as a useful starting point. However, we believe that a shorter list would enable aggregation of national data in a global stocktake and ensure accountability, as well as facilitate political commitment and communication. Also, some of them are not fully developed or operational. Thus, Portugal is committed to promote thorough and profound discussions on the monitoring framework and also on the scientific and technical aspects of the goals and targets of the Post-2020 GBF.

Portugal *considers* that indicators in the monitoring framework should be aligned, as much as possible, with those already in use or under development by other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in order to minimize the reporting burden and reinforce synergies.

Portugal *supports* the need to keep the monitoring framework under review to allow for better and/or new indicators to be incorporated on the basis of scientific and technical advice, and hence *supports* the establishment of a Technical Expert Group. However, we believe that the proposed Terms of Reference need adjustments, namely regarding its mandate and the relation with existing organizations.



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Finally, Portugal *believes* that very high levels of ambition will be needed if we want to achieve the 2050 vision and goals defined in the Post-2020 GBF. This will involve a precise wording of the goals and targets, as well as setting the necessary level of science-based numerical elements. In addition, a higher level of political commitment and means of implementation need to be secured.

*Thank you, Madam Chair.*



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