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

Statement of the European Union 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.

Good morning, afternoon, evening Delegates

Firstly, the EU welcomes GBO5 and would like to include a draft recommendation from SBSTTA to COP for supporting it and using its findings.

The EU would like to reiterate its big thanks to the Secretariat and the SBSTTA-Chair for organizing this virtual meeting, and for the preparation of this agenda item and all related documents.

The EU supports the statements made previously by Portugal and calls for a strong monitoring framework that would first of all generate political commitment and serve communication purposes, track progress on Parties' contribution to collective effort to more ownership and accountability at all levels. As integral part of the Post-2020 GBF, it should be adopted at the same time at COP15.

While we support the proposed structure of the monitoring framework, which includes a set of headline indicators, complemented by a wider set of component and complementary indicators, we consider that the proposed list of 48 Headline Indicators should be shortened with priority given to indicators, which are available for all Parties and can be added-up and communicated easily at global level.

The experience from the Vilm workshop of 14 January 2021 shows that we will need much more discussion and time as European experts had 5 hours discussion on the Headline indicators, which were not conclusive.

The online presentation by SCBD of monitoring framework on 26 January did not clarify what the purpose(s) and user(s) of all these indicators are. Also, the fact that key background documents (Add2) was missing until very recently did not help. The EU would therefore suggest further informal discussions after the informal meeting and ahead of the formal SBSTTA.

Since the set of indicators will need to be kept under review, we support the establishment of a Technical Expert Group, which should start its work after the CBD COP15 . We believe that the proposed Terms of Reference are overall fine but need to provide further clarification in terms of mandate, relation with existing organisations, number of meetings, etc. However, we have no view yet on whether or not the updated lists should be adopted by future COPs?

Finally, the EU supports the amendments to the draft recommendations as suggested in Vilm report. We have posted our statements on CBD portal as requested.

Thank you, Madam Chair