

Informal session in preparation for SBSTTA-24

Statement of Juan Lucas Restrepo, Director-General of the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (CGIAR)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement at this *Informal session in preparation of SBSTTA-24*. It's good to see that the dialogue is already acknowledging the significant connections between food and biodiversity.

2021 will be a crucial year for food and biodiversity, with many high-level global events happening around these topics, including the negotiation and approval of the new Global Biodiversity Framework at the UNCBD COP15, the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), the adoption of the FAO Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26. Momentum for high ambition has been building, for instance with Leaders Pledge for Nature signed by 84 Heads of State at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020. Promoting coherence, complementarity and alignment among global processes will be crucial to achieve several interlinked global priorities as part of the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda and related frameworks, including the Global Biodiversity Framework.

As co-lead of one of the thematic areas of Action Track 3 on *Boosting Nature positive production* of the UN Food Systems Summit, I see that biodiversity is coming out strongly in the formulation of game-changing solutions that will help us transform our food systems. Some of the solutions gathered so far through the UNFSS Public survey and Public forum and our Action Tracks advisory teams include: increasing agricultural biodiversity for improved production stability and resilience, adopting landscape approaches and regenerative agriculture at scale, and promoting agroecological practices, to name a few.

While biodiversity is fully integrated in the UNFSS, we also need to ensure that a food system approach is integrated in the post-2020 GBF. The new Framework offers a unique opportunity to shift towards a food system that is both Nature- and People- positive. This means emphasizing action to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in human managed ecosystems to meet people's needs (e.g. food, fiber, fuel, tourism) and support conservation goals. But to do so, we need to embed an ambitious target on food systems in the new framework. This need came out strongly during the 2nd *online exchange on food systems and the post-2020 GBF* held last November as part of the (UN One Planet Network) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme, and co-convened by Costa Rica, Switzerland, WWF, and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT.

This much needed target should cover all the aspects of sustainable food systems (from production to consumption), address food systems efficiency (looking at halving food waste and loss) and highlight the contribution of biodiversity to food security and nutrition. These elements could be integrated in the current version of Target 9. Together with our partners, we offer our support to the Member countries and the Secretariat of the UNCBD to further refine Target 9 of the new GBF, and turn it into a comprehensive, ambitious and transformative food systems target.

Finally, we also think it is important to bring closer the provisions on access and benefit-sharing of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the new Global Biodiversity Framework, both in terms of monetary and non-monetary benefits, aiming for common indicators to all ABS systems. As part of CGIAR, we would also like to support this dialogue. Thank you very much for your attention.



Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) are CGIAR Research Centers. CGIAR is a global research partnerships for a food-secure future.

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