



March 2021

Statement by Switzerland for the informal session in preparation of CBD SBI-3 on agenda item 11 (Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation)

Mainstreaming is a key element to halt biodiversity loss. But the integration of a biodiversity friendly policy into other sectors remains a challenge.

Switzerland would like to focus our intervention on 4 topics:

Strategic approach

Switzerland agrees that a strategic approach for mainstreaming biodiversity is much needed.

- We would prefer an integration of the strategic approach of mainstreaming in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to give it the visibility and attention it requires to assure the concurrence of other sectors.
- We recognize that the strategic approach in Annex II as well as the action plan in Add.1, contain very important suggestions and actions. However many of them such as measures to address perverse incentives, or the requirement of integrated spatial planning should be addressed by the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework itself.
- We see a significant overlap between the strategic approach, the current draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and strategic plans adopted by multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).
- Therefore we suggest to refocus the strategic approach for mainstreaming to make it an approach common to all MEAs. The action plan could serve as input to the further development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Programmes of work in CBD to be revived

- In the draft strategic approach, some mechanisms for promoting mainstreaming are missing: The existing and potential new programmes of work of the CBD would be important mainstreaming tools. These operational tools to facilitate implementation of the GBF should be revitalized and expanded in the light of the new targets. We could imagine that the strategic approach for mainstreaming could provide a cross-cutting guidance for the implementation of all post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework milestones and action targets.
- Switzerland is convinced that the best way for the CBD to work with partners is through mutually agreed programmes of work. This requires careful preparation and negotiation with partners but it guarantees equal ownership, defines concrete actions, clarifies roles, sets timelines and creates meaningful entry points for engagement.
- After adoption of the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework we would recommend to update the present work programmes, e.g. agricultural biodiversity, island biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, forest biodiversity, etc. and to decide on additional thematic areas if needed. For example: the mainstreaming action plan proposed measures which could be the basis for a future work programme on business engagement.
- We recommend requesting the Executive Secretary to develop a list of the existing as well as potential new programmes of work with potential partners, in consideration of document CBD/SBI/3/13/Add.1 and the updated zero draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



Informal Advisory group (IAG) stop or continue with revised Terms of Reference (ToRs)

- Mainstreaming will require the broadest possible engagement of actors at all levels of government and society. Therefore, mechanisms established under the CBD need to be enabling and open-ended in nature. Any further work of the convention on mainstreaming needs to be open to other ministries and sectors, to interested organizations and multilateral environmental agreements. We are questioning the continuation of the IAG in its current form.
- If the mandate of the IAG should be extended, the ToRs would need to be revised and allow a broader engagement of stakeholders for instance through virtual means. The action plan in CBD/SBI/3/13/add.1 should be consistent with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Implementation of the action plan mentioned in CBD/SBI/3/13/Add.1 is unclear – here also the consistency between the framework and the action plan has to be secured.

Annex I in CBD/SBI/3/13 provides not complete advice to OEWG

- Lastly we would like to point out that in Annex I, advice for sections 'G - enabling conditions' and 'I – Outreach, awareness and uptake' of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework are missing. We are of the view that especially those two sections are important regarding mainstreaming.