**JOINT STATEMENT**

29 March 2022

The Gabonese Republic has the honor of delivering this statement on behalf of a like-minded group of developing countries on biodiversity and development including the African Group and Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Pakistan, and Venezuela.

Co-Chairs, we wish to make this statement for the record and would like to request that this be placed in the record of the meeting.

1. As a biodiversity like-minded group of developing countries, we represent many developing countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. We are repositories of most of the biological diversity of the world that we are committed to conserve and sustainably use as part of our compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity. On behalf of all humanity, our biodiversity and our entire Earth, we take this responsibility and privilege seriously.
2. We are deeply conscious of the importance of ensuring that through our work here at the CBD, we need to conclude and put in motion the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as an ambitious, balanced, and pragmatic package that fully integrates ambition for biodiversity, the outcomes we want, and the means of implementation for doing so.
3. Equity is key to effective international cooperation for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the achievement of the post-2020 GBF’s mission, goals and targets.
4. The post-2020 GBF should take full account and due consideration of the specific needs and special situation and conditions of developing countries, with regard to support to implement the Convention, consistent with their development and poverty eradication priorities. The issue of the means of implementation is a crucial concern for our group in these negotiations.
5. Measurable, predictable, effective, new and additional financial resources and institutional arrangements for the provision of finance, capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation, and technology transfer from developed countries to developing countries are needed.
6. The provision of predictable, measurable, new, additional, and adequate finance from developed countries to developing countries pursuant to existing obligations under Article 20 and other provisions of the Convention is a key enabler for enhanced biodiversity-related actions on the ground in developing countries under the Convention and its Protocols. This can make a substantial difference in the world’s ability to address the loss of biological diversity. This should be acknowledged and acted upon rather than be diluted, to ensure that the implementation of the post-2020 GBF will succeed rather than fail.
7. Without the means of implementation provided under Article 20 from developed to developing countries, the achievement of developing countries’ national efforts through their national biodiversity strategies and action plans will be hindered, as we saw in the nonfulfillment of the Aichi targets due to the lack of such cooperation.
8. As developing countries, we refuse to let that happen. We have a responsibility to ourselves, our peoples, and our biodiversity, and to present and future generations to live in harmony with nature. Enhancing our countries’ collective action for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under the post-2020 GBF means that our mission, goals and targets, our reporting framework, and the necessary means of implementation to enable action should be adopted together in a holistic manner as a package at COP15.
9. We call on developed countries to commit to a goal of mobilizing and providing jointly at least USD100 billion annually initially and rising to USD700 billion annually by 2030 and beyond, under draft Target 19 of the post-2020 GBF, to address the needs of developing countries in implementing the post-2020 GBF as part of a cohesive strategy to fill the global biodiversity financing gap. This must be new and additional to, and separate and distinct from, the financing that they are committed to provide under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement as well as their official development assistance.
10. The current architecture for global biodiversity financing should be transformed. A more robust and effective financial mechanism under the COP for the implementation of Article 20 and 21 is urgently needed as a crucial element for the post-2020 GBF to complement and not supersede existing financial support arrangements, such as the GEF. This financial mechanism should ensure that new, additional, and adequate financial resources are provided by developed country Parties to developing country Parties pursuant to Article 20. This mechanism should include agreement on the establishment of a new Global Biodiversity Fund to complement the GEF for the pooling and disbursement of biodiversity-related financing under Article 20 to support the implementation of the post-2020 GBF up to 2030 and beyond. This will strengthen global cooperation on biodiversity.
11. Agreeing at Kunming on the establishment of such a financial mechanism will make the CBD regime fit for purpose and “future-ready”. The detailed implementation modalities, including its structure and processes, for the financial mechanism together with its own fund can be the subject thereafter of focused negotiations among Parties to be concluded by COP16 in 2024. These modalities should ensure that facilitated, direct and needs-based access by developing countries to new, additional, and adequate financial and other support from the fund as well as from the GEF is provided. This will complement and also help leverage domestic sources of biodiversity financing.
12. Additionally, the institutional architecture for reporting on, and review and planning of, our actions under the Convention need to match obligations under Article 20. Hence, the mechanism for reporting, review, and planning that we are negotiating must include modalities for the reporting by developed countries of information on the biodiversity finance and other support that they are committing and have provided to developing countries. Such information should also be considered as an integral part of the review of progress of the post-2020 GBF, whose modalities and process are still under discussion, together with ex ante and ex post information about financial resources needed and received by developing countries for their biodiversity actions under the Convention. Such a framework will provide a greater level of transparency and enable us to better match financial resources provided under Article 20 to what developing countries need.
13. Individual members of our group have put forward concrete proposals reflecting the ideas above. As we move forward in our work towards COP15 after this SB session here in Geneva, we expect these proposals to be fully discussed and negotiated in good faith, with the objective of ensuring that the post-2020 GBF is fit for purpose, future-ready, and set up to succeed, based on equity and international cooperation and solidarity.
14. We are convinced that the outcome of our work here can be an effective instrument in the struggle to address biodiversity loss and address the achievement of all sustainable development goals. This will help strengthen the multilateral regime under the Convention and its Protocols, notably the provision of the means of implementation by developed country Parties to developing country Parties under the Convention.

Thank you very much.