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Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
E-mail: secretariat@cbd.int

February 25, 2022

Dear Ms. Maruma Mrema,

Canada is pleased to share its comments in response to CBD Notification 2021-046 inviting Parties and stakeholders to provide advanced comments on the four annexes mentioned in CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5 :

- National Reporting (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.1/Amend.1);
- Draft guidance for updating or revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.4);
- Modus Operandi of the open-ended forum of SBI for country-by-country review of implementation (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.5); and
- Commitments from actors other than national governments in the context of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting mechanism (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6).

We look forward to discussing these important documents further at the upcoming resumed intersessional meetings in Geneva.

Best regards,

Kelly Torck
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Template for the Advanced Comments on Draft Documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS: Revised guidance and template for the seventh and eighth reports contained in annex to CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD1/AMEND1

Advanced comments on the draft documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	
Scope of this template for comments	Revised guidance and template for the seventh and eighth national reports, contained in annex to the document CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD1/AMEND1 which includes a draft of Annex C to CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5. This template aims to collect feedback on that Annex.
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Comments	
Please provide any general comments on the structure of the draft template for the seventh and eighth national reports, as well as the introduction to the template.	
<p>In red below are the changes suggested by Canada to the introduction text in the annex as well as rational to Canada's suggestions.</p> <p>4. In preparing the seventh national report, Parties are encouraged to include information or analyses as requested in related decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting,¹ as they are essential for monitoring and assessing progress in the implementation of related strategies or action plans adopted as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In preparing the eighth national report, Parties are encouraged to include related information as requested in related decisions of the Conference of the Parties since its fifteenth meeting. [The seventh and eighth national reports should also include financial reporting.²]</p>	

¹ Once the Conference of the Parties adopts the template for the seventh national report, a list showing any requests for information will be annexed to the decision.

² This will be confirmed by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

5. Further to decision 14/27, in which the Conference of the Parties decided that the submission of the next reports under the Convention and its Protocols would be synchronized, Parties should involve the respective national focal points for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols (if different from the primary national focal point for the Convention) in the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports. In addition, Parties are encouraged to involve relevant stakeholders in the preparation of their seventh and eighth national reports. This includes representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational and local governments, representatives of relevant sectors, national statistical offices, business, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. Parties are also encouraged to involve the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, in addition to the national focal points for the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant international and regional conventions. Parties are further encouraged to use national reports, reviews or communications submitted under these conventions and in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals as an important basis for assessing progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
4. The information contained in the seventh and eighth national reports could be used, as appropriate, to inform, among other things, the following:
- (a) ~~A mid-term and final review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by the Conference of the Parties;~~
- (b) Global stocktaking by the Conference of the Parties, [in 2025-2026 and 2030];³
5. To enable global aggregation and analysis of progress, the use of headline indicators, agreed in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Error! Bookmark not defined. is proposed as a component to be included in national reports. National report templates could be pre-populated with available national data and disaggregated from global data sets or national data that is publicly available. Parties would then have the option to use the available data, to propose an alternative data set or to report “no data”/“not relevant”. Countries are also encouraged to use component and complementary indicators as contained in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as well as relevant national, subnational and local indicators, as appropriate.
6. As indicated above, Parties are encouraged to involve the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, as well as the national focal points for the Sustainable Development Goals, when preparing the seventh and eighth national reports. Parties are also encouraged to use the voluntary Data and Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT) developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). ~~DaRT is the first tool developed to support Parties in making effective use of synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting under the biodiversity related conventions and was endorsed by the InforMEA Initiative (<https://dart.informeia.org>). Parties are also encouraged to take action in this regard, as indicated in decision 15/~~.⁴

Submission of the report

7. ~~[To facilitate the preparation and submission of the seventh and eighth national reports, an online reporting tool will be developed for use by Parties, building on the online reporting tool for the sixth national reports and other relevant tools, such as DaRT. The online reporting tool will be accessible on~~

³ This is subject to a decision to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁴ Decision to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

the clearing-house mechanism⁵ of the Convention and will allow multiple nationally authorized users to draft elements of the national report and submit them for review and internal approval before formal submission by a national publishing authority. The tool will allow Parties to submit parts of the national report as they are finalized or submit the entire report once all of the sections are completed. The tool will also allow Parties to accept data on relevant headline indicators that are pre-filled from relevant regional/global data sets. For those Parties with limited Internet access or which prefer to submit their national reports in document form, an offline version of the reporting templates will be made available. If the national report is submitted in document form, it should be accompanied by an official letter or an email message from the national focal point for the Convention or a senior government official responsible for the implementation of the Convention. Parties not using the online reporting tool may send their seventh and eighth national reports to the Secretariat's main email address (secretariat@cbd.int).]

To note that the above paragraph contradicts the proposal in CRP5 in paragraph 16 b) where the Executive Secretariat is request to further developing the existing online reporting tool for national reports on the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the online decision-tracking tool, and the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People. Following the submission of the 6th NR, Parties were asked to provide feedback on the ORT, Canada submitted feedback and supports the improvement of to the existing tool (i.e. functions like format pasting and version control). Canada supports the existing online reporting tool though the CHM used by Parties and believes that it is not necessary to develop a new online reporting tool.

Please use the table below to provide any specific comments on the template:

Section	Comment
I	Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section I. Executive summary of the seventh and eighth national reports.
II	<p>Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section II. Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report</p> <p>Canada would suggest the deletion of bullet :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan for using the report for communication and outreach activities as well as national planning process. <p>To note that given that this is the section of the report that describes the process for preparation of the report, it is unclear how this bullet is relevant for the preparation of the national reports. For instance, does this imply that Parties will develop a communication plan for sharing details of the national report outcomes as part of their process for preparing the report?</p>
III	Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section III. Status of the updated or revised NBSAP in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (This section is for the seventh national report only)

⁵ <https://chm.cbd.int>

IV	Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section IV. Assessment of progress towards the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
V	Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section V. Progress towards the 2030 action targets

Template for the Advanced Comments on Draft Documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS: Draft guidance for updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans in light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework contained in CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD 4

Advanced comments on the draft documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	
Scope of this template for comments	Guidance for updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans in light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in the document CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.4 which includes a draft version of Annex A to CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5.
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Comments	
Please provide any general comments on the national biodiversity strategy and action plan guidance.	
In red below are the changes suggested by Canada to the introduction text in the annex.	
<p>2. NBSAPs should be seen as an umbrella process under which all national objectives and actions relevant to biodiversity can be planned, implemented, monitored, reviewed and adapted. They should involve all government sectors <u>at all levels of government</u> and all stakeholders across society to ensure that objectives, actions and expected outcomes are coordinated, that the concerns of different actors are addressed, and that their ownership and commitment towards implementation is attained. Additionally, the NBSAP process should garner high-level political support, ensure interministerial coordination and vertical integration, and facilitate implementation throughout the decade.</p>	
Process and timeline for aligning NBSAPs with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	

7. National targets in a standardized format should be communicated to the Secretariat within ~~two years one year~~ of the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, using the template included at the end of this annex, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention. As mentioned above, in the case where existing national targets are already aligned with the new framework, it will be sufficient to enter them into the template, link them to the new global targets, and explain their alignment. New national targets will also need to be linked to the global targets and their contribution explained. This information could be submitted ahead of submitting a revised NBSAP. However, Parties that decide to update or revise their NBSAP within ~~two years one year~~ of adoption of the new framework could submit an updated or revised NBSAP and the national targets simultaneously.

8. The concrete actions that are planned in order to achieve the national targets ~~can be should be~~ adapted/developed ~~either~~ at the same time as the targets ~~or as a second step after they have been established~~. The development of these actions should go hand in hand with the development of national finance plans so that all planned actions have corresponding ~~cost assessments funding sources identified~~.

Please use the table below to provide any specific comments on the template:

Section	Comment
1	Please provide comments on section 1 which includes the elaboration of national targets towards <u>each of the global targets</u> of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
2	Please provide comments on section 2 on who is responsible for coordinating implementation and reporting on this target.
3	Please provide comments on section 3 on the linkages with other national initiatives and targets. If yes, please indicate where/under what process this commitment has been made (for example your country's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, one or more of your country's Land Degradation Neutrality targets, one or more of your country's voluntary commitments (e.g. national ecosystem restoration targets; the Leaders' Pledge for Nature; the Action Agenda for Nature and People; <u>Regions/Cities with Nature Commitment Platforms</u> , or other)
4	Please provide comments on section 4 on involvement of sub-national or other actors beyond national governments.

Template for the Advanced Comments on Draft Documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS: Modus Operandi of the open-ended forum of SBI for country-by-country review of implementation contained in CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD 5

Advanced comments on the draft documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	
Scope of this template for comments	Modus Operandi of the open-ended forum of SBI for country-by-country review of implementation, contained in the document CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.5, which includes a draft of Annex D to CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5. This template aims to collect feedback on that Annex.
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<i>Comments</i>	
Please provide any general comments and specific suggestions on the proposed modus operandi of the open-ended forum of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for country-by-country review of implementation.	
In red below are the changes suggested by Canada to the introduction text in the annex.	
<p>4. The second phase would consist of an in-session open-ended forum on review of implementation to be held during the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. During the open-ended forum, an aggregate summary of the successes and challenges discussed during the online dialogues would be presented and discussed. The aggregate summary of successes and challenges would be presented to the plenary of the Subsidiary Body under the agenda item on progress on implementation. This summary would complement or contribute to the initial stages of the global stocktakes on ambition and implementation, <u>and the Subsidiary Body would recommend a global policy response from the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.</u></p>	

8. For those Parties that would like to participate in a more comprehensive and in-depth review, the voluntary peer-review (VPR) process on NBSAP revision and implementation, already in place and recognized in decision 14/29, would continue to be available, on a voluntary basis, subject to the continued availability of resources. The countries that have gone through the VPR process would have the opportunity to present their successes and challenges, and lessons learned through the VPR, to the online dialogues. As has been the practice until now, the review reports of the VPR processes would be presented to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties as information documents and their findings would also contribute to the aggregate summary of the online discussions to be presented to the Subsidiary Body.

To note that this proposed approach appears to blend the previously proposed activities of the Peer review and the open-ended forum. It is unclear if additional in-depth peer review mechanism would be needed beyond this newly proposed mechanism for the open-ended forum. Canada wold invite further clarity from the request the secretariat as to the value added of each process.

Template for the Advanced Comments on Draft Documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS: Draft guidance for capturing commitments from actors other than national governments in the context of enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms contained in CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD 6

Advanced comments on the draft documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	
Scope of this template for comments	Draft guidance for capturing commitments from actors other than national governments in the context of enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms contained in the document CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6, which includes a draft of Annex B to CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5. This template aims to collect feedback on that Annex.
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Comments	
Please include general comments on capturing commitments from actors other than national governments.	
Canada understands that the <i>Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People was created at COP-14 and Canada could further support an enhanced version of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, using the guidance provided in the annex, as the mechanism for reporting the additional voluntary non-state actor commitments that will go beyond Kunming.</i>	
Please use the table below to provide any specific comments on the template:	
Section	Comment
1	Please provide comments on section 1 on general information on the actor.

	<p>6. Geographic scope (local, <u>subnational</u>, national, regional or multinational).</p>
2	<p>Please provide comments on section 2 which includes the section on specific commitments from actors other than national governments.</p> <p>12. Theme(s) (ideally aligned with the action themes: [food systems and health; freshwater, coastal and ocean ecosystems; conservation and restoration of land ecosystems; climate change mitigation and adaptation; conservation and sustainable use of species; sustainable consumption and production; stewardship/good governance; urban sustainability; green finance; biosafety; and access to benefit-sharing].)</p> <p style="color: red;">Canada supports the identification of key themes as a component of the submissions of non-state actors but would suggest that this content be placed in brackets and should ultimately reflect the themes identified as priorities in the global biodiversity framework (i.e. IAS, CEPA, etc.)</p>
3	<p>Please provide comments on section 3 on progress tracking.</p>