

## NOTIFICATION

### Invitation to the High-Level Segment of the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols

Dear Madam/Sir,

Further to notification [2021-058](#) which informed Parties about the way forward of the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, I am pleased to inform Parties that the official invitation to the High-Level Segment from His Excellency, Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, annexed to this notification, has been dispatched by means of a diplomatic demarche, through the embassies and diplomatic missions in China, to the Ministers in charge of the Convention's portfolio.

The aim of the High-Level Segment is to ensure political momentum in support of the ongoing negotiations to develop an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will be adopted at the second part of COP 15 in 2022. The High-Level Segment will allow in-depth discussions amongst Ministers and other high-level representatives of Parties, as well as international and regional organizations and non-Party stakeholders, to reinforce the ambition for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Furthermore, the Government of China has included a first draft of the "Kunming Declaration" in its invitation to the Ministers and invited comments to be made at the Ministers' earliest possible convenience but no later than **6 September 2021**, by e-mail to [cop15hls-outcome@mee.gov.cn](mailto:cop15hls-outcome@mee.gov.cn) with copy to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int). A copy of the Declaration is also annexed to this notification.

To this end, I encourage Parties to follow up with their respective Ministers to ensure their active participation in this important event, as well as their meaningful contribution to the Kunming Declaration, which is expected to be presented for adoption by consensus by the Ministers and other heads of delegation representing Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at the final plenary session of the High-Level Segment.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema  
Executive Secretary

Enclosures

To: CBD National Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol Focal Points, ABS Focal Points





中华人民共和国生态环境部  
MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

TEL: (86 10) 6564 5802  
FAX: (86 10) 6264 5800  
ADD: No.12, East Chang'an Street,  
Dongcheng District, Beijing, China

August, 2021

Your Excellency,

We stand at a historic moment for our planet and our future, a moment in which we, as a global community are faced with the defining challenge to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

Focusing on the theme of *“Ecological Civilization—Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”*, the 2021-22 UN Biodiversity Conference, including the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) as well as the concurrent meetings of the Parties of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, represents a key milestone for the international community in addressing the current biodiversity crisis.

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, to invite you to participate in a High-Level Segment of the Conference due to take place in a virtual setting, on 12 and 13 October 2021 during the first part of COP 15. The High-Level Segment intends to ensure and maintain political momentum in support of the ongoing negotiations to develop an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will be adopted at the second part of the Conference in early 2022. The High-Level Segment will allow in-depth discussions amongst Ministers and other high-level representatives of Parties, as well as international and regional organizations and non-Party stakeholder groups to reinforce the ambition for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In this respect, your participation will further signal the urgency of this issue despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also demonstrate your country's commitments to biodiversity action and strong support for multilateral cooperation to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, so as to ensure that by 2030, the world is on a path to reach the 2050 Vision of *“Living in Harmony with Nature”*. The provisional agenda is enclosed with this letter.

Action on biodiversity will require a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. Accordingly, the Government of China would also like to extend this invitation, through you, to other Ministers of your country to facilitate a multi-sectoral dialogue aimed at further integrating the discussions under each theme proposed in the programme of the High-Level Segment. Particularly, we would encourage you to facilitate the participation of Ministers responsible for finance, economy, climate change, food and agriculture, and technology and innovation in the relevant sessions of the High-Level Segment.

It is envisioned that a ministerial *“Kunming Declaration”* will be presented for adoption by consensus by Ministers and other heads of delegation representing Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at the final plenary session of the segment. A first draft of the Declaration is annexed to this letter for your feedback. We invite you to provide comments to [cop15hls-outcome@mee.gov.cn](mailto:cop15hls-outcome@mee.gov.cn) with copy to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) by **6 September 2021**.



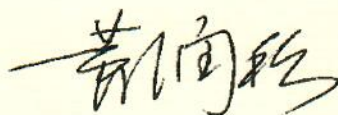
As one of the eighteen megadiverse countries, the People's Republic of China is committed to continue working hand in hand with all Parties and stakeholders on a path that secures the future of this planet and all its peoples in achieving the Convention's 2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature".

I look forward to your positive response to my invitation at your earliest convenience but no later than **6 September 2021** to [tian.fang@fecomee.org.cn](mailto:tian.fang@fecomee.org.cn) with copy to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int).

Should you require further information on the High-Level Segment, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Chen Haijun, CBD National Focal Point of China at: [chen.haijun@mee.gov.cn](mailto:chen.haijun@mee.gov.cn).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Huang Runqiu

Minister of Ecology and Environment

The People's Republic of China



Enclosure

**Kunming Declaration**  
**Towards an Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All**  
**Life on Earth**  
(Revised Zero Draft)

We, the Ministers and other heads of delegations, having met in person in Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, and remotely, on 12 and 13 October 2021, on the occasion of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, and at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China,

*Recalling* the relevance of the 2050 Vision “Living in harmony with nature”,

*Emphasizing* that biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services it provides, support all forms of life on Earth and underpin our human and planetary health and well-being, economic growth and sustainable development,

*Concerned* that the ongoing loss of biodiversity jeopardizes achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that progress has been made in the last decade, under the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, but deeply concerned that such progress has been insufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

*Acknowledging* with grave concern that the unprecedented and interdependent crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, land desertification, and increasing risks to human health and food security, pose an existential threat to our society, our prosperity and our planet,

*Recognizing* that these crises share many underlying drivers of change,

*Acknowledging* that indigenous peoples and local communities have contributed to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the application of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices,

*Stressing*, therefore, that urgent and integrated action is needed across all sectors of the economy and all parts of society, through policy coherence at all levels of

government, and synergies across Conventions and multilateral organizations, to shape a future path for nature and people, where biodiversity is conserved and used sustainably, and its benefits are shared fairly and equitably, as an integral part of sustainable development,

*Noting* that a combination of measures are needed to halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity, including actions to enhance the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, mitigate climate change, reduce pollution, control invasive alien species and prevent overexploitation, as well as actions to ensure the sustainable production of goods and services, and reduce consumption and waste, recognizing that none of these measures alone, nor in partial combinations, is sufficient and that the effectiveness of each measure is enhanced by the other,

*Noting* that this requires the building of an “Ecological Civilization”, whereby, Nature is respected, “lucid waters and lush mountains” and all ecosystems are recognized and protected as invaluable assets, promoting a harmonious relationship between economic development and eco-environmental conservation,

*Reaffirming* the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being and the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet, as well as the outcomes of the 2021 International Conference on Environmental Justice,

*We declare* that putting biodiversity on a path to recovery is a defining challenge of this decade, in the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, requiring strong political momentum to develop, adopt and implement, an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

*We Commit* to:

1. Ensure the negotiation, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with provision of the means of implementation, and appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and review, to ensure that biodiversity is put on a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest, towards the full realization of the 2050 Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”;
2. Support the negotiation, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

3. Work across our governments to continue to promote the integration, or “mainstreaming” of biodiversity values into decision-making as well as into policies, regulations, planning processes, poverty reduction strategies, and economic accounting and strengthen cross-sectoral coordinating mechanisms on biodiversity;

4. Accelerate the development and update of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and make halting biodiversity loss an important goal of them;

5. Improve the effectiveness of area-based conservation and management through establishing effective systems of protected areas and adopting other effective area-based conservation measures, and protect wild species and reduce or eliminate threats to biodiversity;

6. Actively advance the global environmental legal system that safeguards the environmental rights and interests of human beings, establish a sound and strict system of biodiversity laws and regulations, and conserve biodiversity with the strictest legal system and the most stringent regulatory arrangements. Uphold the principle of fair and equitable benefit-sharing, give play to the role of the judiciary, severely crack down on the illegal trafficking and trade of wildlife, advocate the use of diversified dispute resolution methods, and adopt preventive and restorative judicial measures to ensure that wildlife is protected.;

7. Step up our efforts to ensure the fair and equitable benefit-sharing from the use of genetic resources, including related traditional knowledge and in the context of ongoing and emerging developments in technology;

8. Strengthen measures for the regulation, assessment and management of emerging technologies and of the potential risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms;

9. Increase the application of Ecosystem-based Approaches or Nature-based Solutions to address biodiversity loss, restore degraded ecosystems, boost resilience, mitigate and adapt to climate change, support sustainable food production, promote health, and contribute to other challenges, enhancing One Health approaches and ensuring benefits across economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, through robust safeguards for environmental and social protection,

10. Ensure that post-COVID recovery policies, programmes and plans contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, to promote green development pathways that tap ecological potential for economic strengths with equitable and inclusive employment opportunities;

11. Work with ministries of finance and economy to reform incentive structures, phase out or reform subsidies and other incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, mobilize additional financial resources, and align all financial flows in support of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and in particular to increase the provision of financial, technological and capacity building support to developing countries;

12. Encourage indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, local governments and authorities, academia, the business and financial sectors, and other relevant stakeholders to make their voluntary commitments available on the Sharm el Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, and to continue to build the momentum for the implementation of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework;

13. Further enhance collaboration and coordinate actions with ongoing multilateral environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other related international processes, to promote synergistic approaches for the protection, conservation, sustainable management and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems and habitats, while contributing to other sustainable development goals, aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

[This Declaration will be submitted to the General Assembly of United Nations, the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly.]



High-Level Segment  
UN Biodiversity Conference, Kunming, People's Republic of China  
"Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth"

**Provisional Agenda**  
12-13 October 2021

(As of August 19, 2021)

Session and time (GMT+8)	12-13 October 2021
<b>Tuesday, 12 October 2021</b>	
<b>LEADERS SUMMIT</b>	<b>Leaders' Remarks</b> (Leaders from Parties, TBD)
<b>MINISTERIAL SEGMENT PLENARY 15:30-17:00</b>	<i>Moderated by H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China</li> <li>o Ms. Inger Anderson, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme</li> <li>o Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Moderated Panel: "Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Panelists from leaders of international organizations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>MINISTERIAL SEGMENT FIRST PARALLEL ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS 19:00-21:00</b>	<b><u>A. Putting Biodiversity on a Path to Recovery</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investing in conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, and addressing the main drivers of biodiversity loss, across landscapes and seascapes, and engaging all people.</li> </ul>
	<b><u>B. Closing the Financing Gap and Ensuring the Means of Implementation</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transforming incentives, mobilizing resources and aligning all financial flows to support biodiversity, including through COVID-19 economic recovery programmes</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, 13 October 2021</b>	
<b>MINISTERIAL SEGMENT</b>	<b><u>C. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development</u></b>



<p><b>SECOND PARALLEL ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS 10:00-12:00</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deploying biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches (“nature-based solution”) to contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and related goals for climate change and food security; Linkages to UNFCCC COP 26 and the UN Food Systems Summit.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b><u>D. Knowledge, Innovation and Benefit Sharing</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring that everyone benefits from biodiversity related knowledge, technologies and innovations, including through technology assessment governance and use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MINISTERIAL SEGMENT PLENARY 15:00-17:00</b></p>	<p><i>Moderated by H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report back from the Co-Chairs of the Roundtables</li> <li>- Adoption of the Kunming Declaration</li> <li>- Statements by Regions and Major Groups (TBD)</li> <li>- Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity</li> <li>o Chinese authorities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>