



PRESS RELEASE

Mainstreaming biodiversity contributes to achievement of sustainable development, says new biodiversity chief to UN Secretary-General

- *New biodiversity chief aims to raise profile and political visibility of Convention*
- *Will work across United Nations system to achieve Sustainable Development Goals*
- *Upcoming meetings provide opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity*

10 April 2017 – Achieving global biodiversity targets¹ will be a strong contribution to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, said Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, in a meeting held last Friday.

In her first meeting with the Secretary-General, Paşca Palmer, the former Romanian minister of Environment, Waters and Forests, said her top priority is to raise the profile and political visibility of the Convention on Biological Diversity while working cooperatively with other entities across the UN system in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including those for which biodiversity plays a key role, such as goals 14 and 15.

Paşca Palmer said, “We discussed the ever-evolving issues surrounding biodiversity and its growing complex challenges around the globe, including the strong inter-linkages between ecosystems resilience, peace, security, and more broadly, the resilience of the human systems. In this vein, the link between biodiversity and food security was flagged as a key issue. We agreed that the July 2017 session of the High-Level Political Forum, the United Nations central platform for following-up the implementation of the universal Sustainable Development Goals, represents an excellent opportunity to highlight the benefits of mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors such as agriculture and fisheries.”

“It was uplifting to know that the Secretary-General shares my concern and genuinely cares about the state of biodiversity and how it affects every single living being on Earth. I left New York inspired and hopeful about the work that lies ahead and how we can make a difference under the new UN leadership.”

The United Nations Biodiversity Conference² held in Mexico in 2016 focused on mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism. The mainstreaming theme will continue in December 2018, in Egypt, at the next UN Biodiversity Conference, which will focus on expanding the

¹ The Aichi Biodiversity Targets, a set of 20 time-bound, measurable targets agreed by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan in 2010.

² Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, held 2 – 17 December, 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.



mainstreaming biodiversity agenda into other key sectors such as, energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health.

In light of this, Guterres and Paşca Palmer also discussed the contribution of this theme to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and exchanged views on the potential road map towards the conference in Egypt, as well as the subsequent meeting of the parties, to be hosted by China in 2020.

Guterres highlighted the opportunities presented by the upcoming 12th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in May 2017 as well as The Ocean Conference in early June 2017 to promote biodiversity and its links to sustainable development.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Photos of the meeting between Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres are available here: <https://twitter.com/CBDNews/status/851507768544579584>

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties so far, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 96 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
