



Press Release

Governments advance in the preparation of a New UN Biodiversity Framework; Negotiations in Rome demonstrate engagement across government and society

- ***Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework comes to a close at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy;***
- ***Governments and stakeholders demonstrate strong engagement with the zero draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;***
- ***Ambition and transformational change high on the agenda on the road to Kunming; and***
- ***Progress made on goals, ways to reduce threats to biodiversity, meeting people's needs and tools and solutions.***

1 March 2020. Governments and stakeholders completed the first round of negotiations on the zero draft of a global framework on nature and people that seeks to bend the curve on biodiversity loss by 2030, with the goal of building a future of life in harmony with nature by the year 2050.

The second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ended in Rome early evening Saturday, 29 February, with representatives of all levels of government and all stakeholders offering detailed comments and recommendations on the draft text of the global framework.

The Working Group's contact groups produced detailed suggestions on all the aspects of the draft framework. While more discussion is needed to achieve consensus, delegates organised the results of their discussions according to the following themes:

- Goals of the framework, including the relationship between goals for 2030 and 2050;
- Ways to reduce threats to biodiversity, including new targets for protection, sustainable use and the control of invasive alien species, among others;
- Parties and observers welcomed the inclusion of an action target in the zero-draft framework that addresses climate change as a major direct driver of biodiversity loss and the interrelationship between biodiversity and climate change;
- Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing; and
- Tools and solutions for mainstreaming biodiversity across government, society and the economy.

The results can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-02/documents>



Following the decision taken at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference held in Egypt in 2018, the framework is meant to be ambitious, not only in the goals and targets set, but also in providing the means, financial and otherwise, to achieve those goals, and in the mechanisms put in place to review progress.

The proposed balanced framework seeks to be relevant not only for the convention on biodiversity, but also for other international mechanisms and multilateral environmental agreements and all sectors necessary to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss.

The framework also acknowledges the linkages between biodiversity loss and climate change by looking at the potential of nature/ecosystem-based solutions – where biodiversity can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, to combating desertification and degraded land restoration, to food security, and to human health and well-being.

“I urge you to continue to pursue a “whole of government” approach and consult widely within your national ministries, within your regional organizations, and with the broadest engagement of all stakeholders. We need a wide consensus as we make our way down the road to Kunming in October” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“We are seeking nothing less than enabling the world to take the steps needed to bend the curve on biodiversity loss. In the face of such a task, we will need, as the saying goes, all the help we can get” she said.

“This week saw governments and stakeholders adopt a constructive engagement with the zero draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that we have prepared following regional consultations, submission of views and information from science. Through the discussions, we received many proposals on how to move forward to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature. We look forward to continued engagement with governments and stakeholders as we prepare the next draft of the framework” said Francis Ogwal, Co-Chair of the Working Group.

“We have started our journey down the road to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Kunming in October 2020 with all stakeholders demonstrating their commitment to building a future of life in harmony with nature” said Basile van Havre, Co-Chair of the Working Group.

What are the next steps?

In May, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention will carry out a scientific and technical review of the draft goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines, while the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will address questions on implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Following these reviews, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group and the Executive Secretary will prepare a new draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework for consideration by the third meeting of the Working Group, scheduled to be held in Cali, Colombia.

The results of that meeting will be transmitted to the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, which will be held in Kunming, China from 15 to 28 October 2020.

Supporting documents:

- Website of the Convention on Biological Diversity: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>
- Meeting of the Working Group: www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-02/documents
- Draft of the Post-2020 biodiversity framework
 - English: <http://bit.ly/CBDzerodraft>
 - UN languages: <http://bit.ly/CBD-0Draft-UNlanguages>

Meeting background:

During the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan, 2010, member nations adopted a 2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050" and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which included the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Many elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are reflected in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030).

The CBD's 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14), Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, 2018, established the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) and appointed Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Basile van Havre (Canada) to lead the process as Co-Chairs.

At the WG2020's 1st meeting, Nairobi, August 2019, work was authorized and initiated on a "zero draft" text of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, for consideration at its 2nd meeting in Rome, 24-29 Feb. (The draft text is available in all six UN languages at <http://bit.ly/CBD-0Draft-UNlanguages>.)

A 3rd WG2020 meeting is scheduled for Cali, Colombia, 27-31 July, the last meeting before the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) which will be held in Kunming, China from 15 to 28 October 2020.

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About the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

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, the Convention has near universal participation. 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. 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.

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