



PRESS RELEASE

UN Biodiversity Summit to be held in September 2020 at opening of UN General Assembly

- *Summit on Biodiversity unique opportunity to accelerate action on biodiversity for sustainable development.*
- *Event provides momentum to the development of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
- *Meeting takes place on the margins of the opening of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly and includes heads of state and government.*

17 April 2020 – To highlight the urgency of action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the President of the United Nations General Assembly will convene a Summit on Biodiversity at UN Headquarters in New York on the margins of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on 22 and 23 September 2020.

The Summit on Biodiversity, which seeks to provide political direction and momentum to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, will meet under the theme “Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development.” The meeting will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two Leaders’ Dialogues and a closing segment.

The Leaders’ Dialogues will be held under the following themes: “Addressing biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development” (Dialogue 1) and “Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity-building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity” (Dialogue 2).

The Summit provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate ambition to accelerate action on biodiversity for sustainable development, and thereby give momentum to the development and eventual adoption of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15).

The post-2020 global biodiversity 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 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, together with the UN Environment Programme, has been invited by the President of the General Assembly to assist in the preparation of the Summit.



NOTES TO EDITORS

UN Resolution on the Summit on Biodiversity: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/269>

Zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: <http://bit.ly/CBDzerodraft>

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, 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, 172 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 124 Parties.

For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For media inquiries, please contact David Ainsworth on +1 514 561 2720 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
