



PRESS RELEASE

Productive discussions held towards a landmark new UN biodiversity framework

- *Discussions at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework met, and in some areas, exceeded expectations*
- *Meeting helped advance work on global biodiversity framework geared towards reversing nature loss in the next decade and safeguarding the health of the planet*
- *Formal negotiations on framework to resume in January 2022, prior to its adoption at COP-15 in Kunming, China in May 2022.*

Montreal, 3 September 2021 – Discussions at the virtual third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-3) went into recess today, following positive and constructive exchanges that bring the world closer to a clear, ambitious and transformative global framework necessary to accelerate the transformations needed to safeguard the health of the planet.

Over the past two weeks, governments, together with a broad range of key stakeholder groups, engaged in in-depth discussions centred on refining all the goals, targets and elements needed to make the framework both ambitious and transformative, and to ensure that its Draft One, released in July, now reflects the full range and richness of their views.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity, said, “Delegates from around the world, both governments and stakeholders alike, have worked diligently to build a framework that will be widely accessible and easily understood at all levels of society in order to foster integrated and inclusive approaches to implementation.”

“They envisage a framework that is truly global in nature and embraced by all segments of society. Their commitment brought us all one step closer to the beginning of a new era for the protection of nature.”

Basile van Havre and Francis Ogwal, WG2020-3 Co-Chairs, said, “WG2020-3 met all expectations, and in fact exceeded expectations in several areas. We saw more convergence from delegates and even areas of divergence are better circumscribed now.”

“Participants demonstrated their approval of Draft One and came well prepared to provide their insights and refinements on the framework’s essential elements. They made genuine progress by remaining fully engaged through many long hours of discussion, proving their extraordinary level of commitment for adopting nothing less than a clear, ambitious and transformative global framework on biodiversity at COP-15 in Kunming.”



Delegates will continue their discussions during the resumed session in January 2022 in Geneva, where they hope to advance the framework in preparation for adoption at the UN Biodiversity Conference (fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP -15)) in Kunming, China, next year.

Delegates also helped build political momentum for COP-15 by convening a high-level Biodiversity Pre-COP event in the margins of the meeting, under the leadership of the Government of the Republic of Colombia, to promote the critical elements of the framework and ensure the level of ambition needed to safeguard and put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030.

The Pre-COP, hosted by President Iván Duque Márquez of the Government of Colombia, as host of WG2020-3, saw the participation of heads of State and government, and included announcements of commitments by governments that are members of the High Ambition Coalition and signatories to the Leaders' Pledge for Nature.

NOTES TO EDITORS

News videoconference, to be held on 3 September from 10:30-11:15 EDT (UTC/GMT -4 hours), will be streamed live on the CBD's [YouTube channel \(https://bit.ly/3DyTckW\)](https://bit.ly/3DyTckW). Participants include Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary, David Cooper, CBD Deputy Executive Secretary and Basile van Havre and Francis Ogwal, WG2020 Co-Chairs.

Meeting documents: www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-03/documents

Draft One of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework

The WG2020 Co-Chairs, with support from the CBD Secretariat, have prepared 25 one-pagers as an information supplement to the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/article/first-draft-global-biodiversity-framework-one-pagers

Kunming Declaration: www.cbd.int/doc/c/6122/832c/e79653a09327c6f676c3bc72/kunmingdeclaration-en.pdf

Pre-COP notification: www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2021/ntf-2021-061-precop-en.pdf

Publicly accessible video content from the meeting is available on the CBD's [YouTube channel](#).

About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the CBD 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 CBD has near universal participation among countries. The CBD 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 peoples and local communities, youth, women, NGOs, sub-national actors and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing are supplementary agreements to the CBD. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biodiversity

from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 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. Entering into force 12 October 2014, it has been ratified by 131 Parties.

For more information: David Ainsworth, Information Officer, david.ainsworth@un.org

Johan Hedlund, Associate Information Officer, johan.hedlund@un.org

Website: cbd.int

Twitter: @UNBiodiversity

Facebook: facebook.com/UNBiodiversity

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/unbiodiversity