

High-Level Segment brings renewed momentum and new commitments as Biodiversity Conference enters decisive final days

High-level talks bring new funding commitments, calls for subsidy reform, scaling up positive incentives for biodiversity and stronger action to overcome gaps in progress

Yerevan, Armenia, 29 October – Governments meeting at the High-level Segment (HLS), which concluded on 28 October, called for accelerated action to meet global biodiversity targets as the 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference enters its final days.

By the conclusion of the HLS, more than US\$1.8 billion in new biodiversity funding had been announced through government pledges, multilateral funding commitments and public-private financing initiatives, including new pledges made by Parties during their high-level statements.

Around 1,500 participants, including nearly 140 ministers and deputy ministers and 40 heads of international organizations attended the HLS, held during the conference, which comprises COP 17 and meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing.

“As we close this High-Level Segment, I thank you for your engagement, your proposals and your commitment to taking action for nature,” the COP 17 President Hambardzum Matevosyan said. “We must now bring the same energy and political leadership into the negotiating rooms to turn our commitment here in Yerevan into lasting action for nature. As Presidency, we will continue working with all of you to bridge differences and support a balanced, meaningful result.”

The HLS featured Ministerial Dialogues on finance and environment ministry collaboration, events on sustainable oceans and the launch of the Yerevan Call on Incentives Positive to Biodiversity; the Yerevan Platform on Mountains and Related Freshwater Ecosystems; the Yerevan Technology Platform for Biodiversity Monitoring; and the Yerevan OECM Global Hub. These and other initiatives sought to address gaps identified in *State of Biodiversity Action*, the global report on collective progress of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), launched by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres ahead of the conference.

At the HLS, Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the KMGBF while stressing that global ambition must be matched by the means to deliver and faster implementation to meet its 2030 targets. Biodiversity finance was a key theme with emphasis on fulfilling Target 19 commitments, reforming harmful subsidies, scaling up positive incentives for biodiversity and strengthening fair and equitable benefit-sharing, including through the Cali Fund.

“Over the past two days, we have heard strong and clear messages from Ministers, heads of UN organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, donors and other stakeholders. My message: the time to close the gap between where we are and where we want to go is now,” said Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “Parties are accountable to

each other to make this happen. To do that, we must be bold and innovative to find common ground. We must now find the stamina to push through to conclude our discussions on all the critical topics before us.”

Several ministerial statements highlighted updates to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national targets, which guide national implementation of the KMGBF, alongside calls for greater synergies across Multilateral Environmental Agreements and whole-of-society participation.

Following the HLS, negotiations continued across the three meetings in Yerevan with Parties working to resolve outstanding issues and reach agreement on key decisions ahead of the conference’s conclusion on 30 October.

Notes to Editors

About the High-level Segment: Convened by the Government of Armenia on 27 and 28 October 2026, the ministerial segment aimed to mobilise political leadership and momentum for implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and advancing decisions expected to be adopted at the Conference. Full information [here](#).

About the COP 17 Presidency Flagship Initiatives: Armenia has announced four flagship initiatives, on [OECMs](#), [mountain and freshwater ecosystems](#), [biodiversity monitoring](#) and [harmful incentives](#).

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Adopted in December 2022 at COP15, [the Framework](#) contains four 2050 long-term goals and 23 action-oriented targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and put nature on a path to recovery by 2030.

About COP17: The seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is taking place in Yerevan, Armenia, from 19 to 30 October 2026.

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Official information and documents:

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