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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

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Agenda item 11

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

3/15. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation: long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation,

Recalling decision 14/3 of the Conference of the Parties, in which it decided to establish a long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, to develop it further with the support of an informal advisory group, and to consider the advice of that informal advisory group on ways to integrate biodiversity mainstreaming adequately into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Welcoming the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming Biodiversity established pursuant to decision 14/3, as reflected in the progress report of the Executive Secretary,¹

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the Bureau of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to complete the work under decision 14/3 as follows:

(a) To invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant stakeholders and partners, to review the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and its action plan and to submit their views to the Executive Secretary;

(b) To prepare a compilation of submissions received and to make it available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting to support an in-depth Party-driven review of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity with a view to its finalization.

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

[The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 6 (b) of the Convention, which requires Contracting Parties to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies,

Reiterating the critical importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention, and the urgent need to mainstream biodiversity in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Emphasizing the importance of intensified mainstreaming action to achieve the transformational change needed in order to attain the 2050 vision, while acknowledging the specific

¹ CBD/SBI/3/13.

challenges faced by developing countries in supporting mainstreaming policies and the need for adequate means of implementation and enhanced international cooperation,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Biodiversity Mainstreaming, as reflected in the progress report of the Executive Secretary to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting;²

2. *[Adopts][Takes note of][Welcomes]* the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity contained in the annex to the present decision as an important contribution to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

3. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, at all levels, as well as businesses, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders to use the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity as further voluntary guidance tool in implementing the elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to biodiversity mainstreaming, as appropriate;

4. *[Welcomes] [Takes note of] [Takes note with appreciation of]* the voluntary action plan for the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity,³ and encourages Parties and other Governments, at all levels, as well as businesses, research and development agencies, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant stakeholders to take into account the catalogue of possible mainstreaming actions, in order to support the global biodiversity framework and its implementation, to be taken at all levels and across Governments, economic sectors and society and through the inclusion of those actions in their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as appropriate;

5. *Requests* Parties and invites other Governments at all levels to report their case studies, good practices, lessons learned, and other relevant experiences in implementing the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and its action plan, as part of their national reports and in the clearing-house mechanism, and requests the Executive Secretary to consider this information in upcoming editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, including, as appropriate, experiences of indigenous peoples and local communities, business and civil society organizations, as well as other stakeholders;

6. *Recognizes* the work of the Informal Advisory Group and its extended network and, building on their experience, advice and expertise, decides to establish an ad hoc technical expert group on the mainstreaming of biodiversity to advise the Parties, the Bureau and the Secretariat on the implementation and review of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity in support of the global biodiversity framework, and to report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting, including on:

- (a) Exchanging and analysing case studies, good practices and lessons learned on;
 - (i) Identifying priority mainstreaming actions in sectors with the most significant dependencies and impacts on biodiversity;
 - (ii) Ways and means to strengthen the participation, representation, and capacity of civil society in implementing mainstreaming actions;
 - (iii) Biodiversity metrics which can be used by businesses and other actors to support the setting of science-based targets;
 - (iv) [The needs, costs, benefits and approaches to implementing mainstreaming actions of developing countries, taking into account their specific financial, technical, technological and capacity gaps.]

² CBD/SBI/3/13.

³ [CBD/SBI/3/13/Add.1.]

(b) Collaborating, as appropriate, with the ad hoc technical expert group on monitoring the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be established in accordance with paragraph 11 of the draft decision on scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines;⁴

(c) Deepening joint collaborative efforts and synergies with the Rio conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions (multilateral environmental agreements), among other relevant conventions, and such treaties as the chemical conventions.⁵

7. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, subject to the arrangements in place for reporting, monitoring and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to undertake a mid-term review of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and the action plan in support of the global biodiversity framework, at one of its meetings prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,⁶ reviewing the progress made, challenges encountered, and lessons learned, taking into account the specific financial, technological and capacity gaps faced by developing countries in supporting mainstreaming policies, and identifying any need for further action on mainstreaming, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

8. *Invites* developed country Parties, and other Governments according to their capabilities, donors, as well as relevant organizations and initiatives, the private sector and multilateral development agencies, to provide financial support for the work of the ad hoc technical expert group on the mainstreaming of biodiversity;

9. *Invites* Parties and encourages other Governments, in collaboration with various sectors, to establish, or further strengthen, national, subnational, regional or global business and biodiversity partnerships as institutional partners for the implementation of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, building on the experience of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and the Global Business and Biodiversity Forum and associated instruments;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the biodiversity mainstreaming strategy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and encourages relevant international organizations and initiatives, as well as global and regional multilateral development banks, to develop their mainstreaming strategies and plans, and/or to strengthen their existing ones, in a manner consistent with the respective mandates and priorities;

11. [*Welcomes*][*Takes note of*] the work carried out on mainstreaming under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the support provided in this regard by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, *encourages* Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other stakeholders to step up their mainstreaming efforts, building on the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, and *invites* donors to support such activities;

[12. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to strengthen mainstreaming in its future programming, and assist Parties in developing and implementing their mainstreaming actions aligned with revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, building on the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity in accordance with national priorities and circumstances [7];]

⁴ Currently [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2](#).

⁵ The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911); the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2244, No. 39973.); and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2256, No. 40214).

⁶ Consistent with paragraph 3 of CBD/SBSTTA/24/L3 on monitoring and review for the global biodiversity framework.

⁷ [This text will be forwarded to the appropriate agenda item: resource mobilization and the financial mechanism (item 6.)]

13. *Takes note* of the interim report prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre on building a common view among key stakeholders on the measurement, monitoring and disclosure of corporate impacts and dependencies on biodiversity;⁸

14. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and collaborating institutions to continue the work with a view to agreeing on a comparable set of measurements for businesses related to the three pillars of the Convention which can be integrated into corporate disclosure and reporting, in line with the set of headline indicators for the global biodiversity framework;

15. *Invites* business and financial institutions to develop their internal capacity and regulators to measure and integrate, as well as recognize the biodiversity risks, impacts and dependencies of their economic actions, and to provide measurable and verifiable and actionable information using internationally reliable standards for improved decision-making to mainstream biodiversity and the promotion of environmental (including biodiversity), social, cultural and governance standards as appropriate;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To support the work of the ad hoc technical expert group on the mainstreaming of biodiversity as per paragraph 6 above and, in particular, to develop an overview of the status of implementation of the existing programmes of work as well as potential new programmes of work with potential partners, in consideration of the proposed action plan for the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity³ and the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;⁹

(b) To continue to cooperate and coordinate with the extended open consultative network of relevant organizations and initiatives working on various elements of the biodiversity mainstreaming agenda, relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions, the hazardous chemicals and wastes conventions, relevant international sectoral organizations and their programmes, other relevant processes, such as the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to continue organizing, in collaboration with relevant global, regional, and thematic organizations and other stakeholders, and in conjunction with capacity-building activities, the monitoring and review mechanism of the global biodiversity framework, and resource mobilization tasks and commitments, relevant workshops and forums for discussion and exchange of experiences with respect to mainstreaming of biodiversity in key sectors, further to decision 14/3, paragraph 19(g);

(c) To collaborate with the secretariats of other Rio and biodiversity-related conventions, the Biodiversity Liaison Group, the United Nations Environment Management Group, youth, women, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant organizations and stakeholders to optimize synergies among similar initiatives related to mainstreaming and multi-stakeholder cooperation, to propose viable participatory methods, both those based on science, free of conflict of interest and under the precautionary approach, and those that include traditional knowledge, especially those related to the value that biological diversity has for indigenous peoples and local communities, with their consent, and to promote collaboration and conflict resolution among relevant stakeholders with a view to improving environmental governance around biodiversity conservation projects;

(d) To continue to promote and collaborate in the work on business metrics for biodiversity on the basis of existing as well as emerging tools and approaches, and on the definition of strategies for productive sectors in their business decisions in order to integrate biodiversity into

⁸ [UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre 2020. Biodiversity Measures for Business: Corporate biodiversity measurement and disclosure within the current and future global policy context.](#)

⁹ [CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1.](#)

their corporate accounting and decision-making frameworks, ensuring their supply chains are accounted for according to international standards and codes of conduct;

(e) To continue to promote, expand and provide support to the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and its national and regional partnerships, with a view to scaling up these partnerships, to further enhance their effectiveness as a mechanism for engaging businesses and exchanging pertinent experiences and best practices, including through the Global Forum on Business and Biodiversity as a multi-stakeholder platform for exchanges at all levels of governance and with relevant players, and to identify gaps, opportunities, challenges and lessons learned in mainstreaming;

(f) To strengthen the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda in order to encourage and catalyse commitments to concretely support the global biodiversity framework, the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, and sectoral and societal implementation of biodiversity mainstreaming policies, notably by creating coalitions and communities of practices;

(g) To submit a progress report on these activities, as well as on any other pertinent developments, and include proposals for undertaking the mid-term review of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, consistent with the arrangements in place for reporting, monitoring and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.]

[Annex

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC APPROACH TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY**Introduction**

1. Despite the progress already made in the last decade, biodiversity decline and ecosystem degradation continue largely unabated and increasingly threaten sustainable development and human well-being. Profound changes are required to transform the mechanisms that steer development as well as business and investment decisions in order to integrate biodiversity into development, climate change mitigation and adaptation and economic sectors and strive towards [net] positive impacts on ecosystems and species. To achieve this, the multi-faceted values of nature need to be reflected in decision-making and actions across society, including in relevant areas and levels of government, business and finance. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in its Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, states:

*Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.*¹⁰

*[W]e must raise the level of ambition and political will for mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.*¹⁰

2. Past decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity mainstreaming (XIII/3 and 14/3) already highlighted the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into economic sectors and transversally across all levels of government. The present long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity establishes priorities for action, based on scientific evidence of likely impacts and benefits in accordance with the national capacities and circumstances of Parties. It identifies key actors that should be engaged in implementing such actions and appropriate mechanisms to do so. The present long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity recognizes there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to implement mainstreaming policies and takes into account the specific financial, technical, technological and capacity gaps of developing country Parties to support mainstreaming policies. Thus, the present approach highlights synergies with discussions on resource mobilization, capacity building and technology transfer and calls for enhanced international cooperation and adequate means of implementation to maximize opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in particularly for developing countries.

3. The long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity should be kept under review by the Conference of the Parties and be flexible enough to respond to national circumstances and priorities, ensuring full consistency with other relevant international agreements and refraining from prejudging the outcomes of ongoing negotiations in other multilateral fora.

4. In *establishing priorities for action*, the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity will:

(a) Address the pressures on biodiversity and the indirect or underlying drivers of biodiversity decline, according to national priorities and capacities, in line with recommendations such as those from the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and from the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* [as well as the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlook*];

(b) Not duplicate but build on previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties relevant to mainstreaming, such as the existing thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work, as well as past decisions on mainstreaming, incentive measures, impact assessments, business engagement;

¹⁰ https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers_en.pdf.

(c) Cross-reference in particular the resource mobilization component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with a view to (i) facilitating resource mobilization through mainstreaming action, (ii) generating and leveraging resources needed for mainstreaming action and (iii) building the collective capacity of CBD players to mainstream biodiversity;

(d) Support and build on existing international environmental agreements and approaches, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), and the experiences and good practices in implementing these other global policies.

5. In *facilitating monitoring and assessment*, the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity will:

(a) Provide a flexible and voluntary framework to support and facilitate definition and implementation of nationally determined priority mainstreaming actions and associated SMART targets, milestones and indicators;

(b) Support and integrate related work of the Convention on the goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines under review in the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

6. In order to facilitate the design and implementation of nationally determined priority mainstreaming actions, the voluntary action plan to the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity¹¹ will also reference useful mainstreaming guidance, tools, and good practice cases. The following strategy and action areas are particularly important as areas where a long-term strategic approach is required, but not limited to the areas indicated.

Strategy area I: Mainstreaming biodiversity across government and its policies

Headline Action 1: Fully integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values¹² into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts,¹³ integrating spatial planning and applying the principles of the ecosystem approach.¹⁴

Rationale: Mainstreaming across governments and its policies will ensure that biological diversity is considered in all relevant policy areas of governments at all levels, in particular with regard to policies related to finance, economics, planning, development, poverty alleviation, reducing inequality and food and water security, promoting an integrated approach to health, research and innovation, scientific and technological cooperation, development cooperation, climate change and desertification, as well as policies related to key economic sectors, in particular those that relate to the IPBES approach for sustainability, possible actions and pathways,¹⁵ and nexus areas.¹⁶

Headline Action 2. Mainstream biodiversity in fiscal, budgetary and financial instruments, in particular by eliminating, phasing out and/or reforming incentives, including subsidies harmful to biodiversity in key economic sectors, by applying innovative technologies, and by developing and applying positive incentives for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national priorities and socioeconomic conditions.

¹¹ CBD/SBI/3/13/Add.1.

¹² See decision X/3, para. 9(b)(ii): the intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components.

¹³ Sustainable Development Goal 15.9, with an updated timeline (2030 instead of 2020).

¹⁴ See decision V/6. See also <https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/>.

¹⁵ IPBES *Global Assessment Summary for Policymakers*, pages 44-47, https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers_en.pdf

¹⁶ <https://ipbes.net/nexus/scoping-document>

Rationale: Ending or reforming incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful to biodiversity is a critical component of incentive alignment. There will be a need for financial provision to developing countries to fund the national implementation of positive incentives in the global South.

Strategy area II: Integrate nature and biodiversity into business models, operations and practices of key economic sectors, including the financial sector

Headline Action 3: Businesses in relevant economic sectors and at micro, small, and medium levels, and especially large and transnational companies, and those with the most significant impacts on biodiversity, actively transition towards sustainable and fair technologies and practices, including along their supply, trade and value chains, demonstrating decreasing negative and increasingly positive impacts on ecosystems and their services to people, biodiversity and human well-being and health, in a manner consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other international obligations.

Rationale: Integrating biological diversity, and ecosystem service values, into economic sectors enables the achievement of necessary changes in production and consumption, such as incorporating nature-based solutions to production chains, and the reduction of resource waste at all levels of production and consumption. Such transformative actions can be induced through financial and sectorial policies but can also be encouraged by engaging relevant businesses and their associations. Businesses, according to international standards, already account for the values, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity throughout their supply chains, and can adopt sustainable practices to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and can integrate sustainability information in their reporting cycle, according to agreed methodologies. They can also be partners in the design and implementation of positive incentive measures for biodiversity, using science-based and verifiable information on biodiversity in consumer and producer decisions, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, for example through the application of the mitigation hierarchy, certification, eco-labelling or B2B standards, as appropriate.

Headline Action 4: Financial institutions at all levels apply biodiversity risk and impact assessment policies and processes, having developed tools for biodiversity financing to demonstrate decreasing negative impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity in their portfolios and increasing amounts of dedicated finance, to support sustainable business models and foster the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Rationale: Financial flows need to be consistent with a pathway towards living in harmony with nature and redirected towards achieving the nature ambition. Public and private finance should be aligned more effectively with the three objectives of the Convention and seek to scale up resources to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and support local communities and the focus in the global framework should broaden from “also financing green projects” to “greening the financial system as a whole”.

Strategy area III: Mainstreaming biodiversity across society

Headline Action 5: People everywhere have relevant information, awareness and capacities for sustainable development and lifestyles that are in harmony with nature, reflecting the multi-faceted values¹⁷ of biological diversity and its components,¹⁸ and their central role in people’s lives and livelihoods, and take gender-specific measurable steps towards sustainable consumption and lifestyles, taking into account individual and national socioeconomic conditions.

Rationale: Mainstreaming across society relates to the gendered impacts (positive and negative) which individuals and groups have on biodiversity, to the social and cultural benefits which ecosystems and

¹⁷ The intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components; see decision X/9, para. 9(b)(ii).

¹⁸ Sustainable Development Goal 12.8, with amendment to reflect the role of biodiversity values and actions taken.

biodiversity provide, as well as the spiritual and intrinsic values of biodiversity, which is of particular importance to indigenous peoples and local communities central to decisions taken about biodiversity, especially in their lands and territories. It also relates to the steps that can be taken, individually and collectively, to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, for instance by adopting or strengthening sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns that reduce ecological footprints. Mainstreaming can be achieved, for instance, by identifying gender-specific needs for and creating access to training, education and capacity-building on biological diversity to support participatory, inclusive and equitable decision-making processes, strengthening traditional knowledge systems, creating access to health education and the impacts of environmental stressors and benefits to health, and making use of evidence-based communication tools for public awareness.

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