



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Statement by Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

at the round table “Biodiversity Beyond 2020: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”

convened by the

Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

24 September 2020, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Beijing time (GMT+8)

A warm greeting to the distinguished Excellencies joining this important Ministerial Round table. Let me express my special thanks to H.E. Minister Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, and H.E. Mr. Luo Zhaohui, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, for convening this event and promoting the momentum and cooperation for biodiversity beyond 2020.

I am very encouraged by the views of speakers before me. They demonstrate the growing interest in biodiversity and its relationship to broader socio-economic and ecological priorities.

The recently launched fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* has shown that, over the past decade, the world has learned what is required to encourage targeted cross-sectoral collaboration for biodiversity. Governments need to scale up national ambitions while reaching out to actors in the common project of mainstreaming biodiversity into decision-making in all aspects of life.

This requires tools and knowledge as well as bold political will. I am confident that all three things are in rich supply.

Today, we look at our collective goals, and how the decisions we make over the next decade will determine the fate of the world’s biodiversity, along with the lives of hundreds of millions of people who rely on nature for food, jobs and protection, and so much more.

The connections between human well-being and the health of our ecosystems are extensive. The challenges of climate change and COVID-19 show us the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use to ensure a more secure, inclusive and resilient world.

In reaching the Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050, we must look at global and domestic leadership for integrated, ambitious and forward-looking solutions. The fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* has shown us the relationship between eight transitions that, taken together, will restore the ecosystems on which all human activity depends, reduce the negative impacts of human activity, and set all societies on a path to sustainability.

This week marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, a moment when the world can reflect on how, together, we can tackle urgent crises and how we can bring positive solutions on a broader scale, for people, prosperity and the planet.

As we look ahead, I count on your active engagement in the negotiation process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including in the mobilization of adequate resources, the review mechanism and further elements proposed in the zero draft to define, implement and track progress on the new targets under discussion.

We need everyone to be part of this growing movement in the lead-up to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

I thank you for your attention.