



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

**STATEMENT BY MS. ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA  
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AT THE VIRTUAL HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON RAISING AMBITION FOR NATURE**

**Online, Tuesday 20 April 2021**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by offering my sincere thanks to the hosts for convening this Virtual High-level Event and for inviting the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the discussion. Such high-profile support for ambitious biodiversity action certainly bodes well for the global effort to adopt a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework later this year, at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Kunming, China.

The emerging global framework will be a companion to the Paris Climate Agreement, but will focus specifically on nature, and will include goals, targets and policy directions to guide our global society over the next three decades. The need could not be more urgent. In September of this past year, the United Nations released the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which outlined eight major transitions needed to halt nature's accelerating decline. It also provided a final report card on the 2010 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and showed that our collective efforts had fallen short of the mark, with only 6 of the world's 20 goals being "partially achieved" by the 2020 deadline.

Fortunately, Parties have not become disheartened. At the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, they assessed the lessons learned from Aichi and agreed to take bold action with a more inclusive approach. They called for a new global framework that would require universal implementation and engagement by all stakeholders and would incentivize their explicit contributions towards its global goals – including indigenous peoples and local communities, regional and city governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, women, youth and society at large. They also called for swift implementation, since significant national level infrastructure, such as a national biodiversity strategies and action plans, is already in place.

Indeed, since the first negotiating session in Nairobi in August 2019, Parties have been actively building lessons from Aichi into the emerging framework, supported by significant commitments from the business sector and finance, as well as subnational and local governments through the Edinburgh Process. Notably, the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity resulted in the Leaders' Pledge for Nature and a shared commitment to put biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments, as well as national and international development and cooperation.

The Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held a second successful meeting, under the guidance of its Co-Chairs, who produced an updated "zero draft" of the framework in August of last year. In March, we broke new ground by convening the first virtual informal meetings of the Convention's subsidiary bodies and we have now agreed to hold the first virtual formal meetings of these bodies in May and June.

Recreating a formal negotiating session in a virtual format presents many new challenges, all of which call for determination, flexibility and, of course, patience. However, in the light of the diligence we have seen this past year, I am confident we will find a way forward together.

The coming days will present a number of important opportunities for the international community to shape the future of biodiversity conservation, as we work towards an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Together, we can enable



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our societies to build a better world, wherein every person has dignity and prosperity and can live in harmony with nature.

Thank you.

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