

**Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**

**on the occasion of the event:  
Road to Kunming, Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth**

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I wish to thank Ambassador ZHANG Jun, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, for convening this event.

As a follow-up to the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity held last September, this represents the continuation of the strong momentum for the biodiversity agenda.

Let me also thank H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, for joining us today. It is yet another sign of his tireless devotion to the biodiversity agenda.

Let me also wish you all a very happy International Tea Day under the theme “Tea: Resilient, Sustainable and Healthy. From Field to Cup.” The celebrations this year bring together the agendas of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development, showing how the act of taking tea has the potential to bring us all to a sustainable future.

In advance of our discussions today, let me thank all the participants for their participation and devotion to the nature agenda.

Colleagues,

In five months, we need to deliver a new global framework to reverse nature loss in the next decade.

There is a familiar saying that, before anything else, preparation is the key to success. Today, I am pleased to tell you that we at the Secretariat and, most importantly, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, have prepared in a way that has allowed us to advance the process of negotiations, even during these exceptional times.

Parties to the Convention have demonstrated flexibility and willingness to find a way to continue our common work. Their agreement to work virtually, on an exceptional basis without creating a precedent, has allowed us to advance our crucial agenda, including important elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Let me give you a sense of what is being done:

Back in March, Parties participated in informal online sessions of our two subsidiary bodies and shared initial views on most of the agenda items through statements and written submissions.

Demonstrating courage and commitment, they then agreed to hold online, formal negotiating sessions of the subsidiary bodies – one for science and the other for implementation. One primary goal is the development of the long-awaited advice to the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

These sessions of the two subsidiary bodies are currently ongoing until the middle of next month. There has been a tremendous response. For instance, the scientific body has 1,269 registered participants representing 123 countries and 187 organizations, while the implementation body has more than 819 participants registered, representing 105 countries and 141 organizations.

The results of the two meetings will allow the Co-Chairs to prepare the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for publication before the end of June, and therefore further advance the process.

The scientific body's discussions will provide advice on the scientific and technical information to support and contribute to the draft framework. They are analysing the linkages between the proposed goals, targets, and monitoring framework of the post-2020 framework and the Sustainable Development Goals within the scope of the Convention.

They are reviewing the range of relevant existing indicators, baselines, baseline dates, or other appropriate methods for monitoring changes in biodiversity and indicator gaps. Where relevant, they are deliberating options for filling such gaps and for a monitoring framework for the post-2020 framework.

The implementation body's dialogues will also contribute to the development of the post-2020 framework and complement it with elements related to means to support and review implementation, including implementation support mechanisms, enabling conditions, responsibility and transparency, outreach, and awareness. They are reviewing progress in the implementation of the Convention's other instruments, namely the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, and the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions related to traditional knowledge.

As I said in my statement to the world for the International Day for Biological Diversity, now is the time to change our relationship with nature. By halting biodiversity loss, we will create the conditions needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, improve human health, and address the climate emergency.

Let me conclude by saying that, as we prepare to celebrate Biodiversity Day this Saturday, I am proud to say that Parties, by engaging in these crucial discussions, are acting for nature, and thus they are part of the solution for nature.

Thank you.

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