

**STATEMENT BY MS. ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA, EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY,**

**AT THE CLOSING OF  
THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON  
THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

**Sunday, 26 June 2022**

*Co-Chairs,  
Delegates,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

The time has come for us to close our deliberations for the fourth session of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Through six challenging and critical days, you continued to present your perspectives, discuss the policy challenges, and reach agreement on the way ahead. These results could not have been achieved without your continued commitment and engagement. Thanks to your work here, a new global framework for nature and a beacon of hope for humanity is coming into view.

No one said this work would be easy, and for good reason, as you have been tasked with righting the ship on a worldwide level. The world demands nothing less than a global framework that will engage all sectors of society, with the highest level of ambition to reduce and reverse biodiversity loss, mobilize sufficient resources, and ensure that the benefits of nature are shared fairly and equitably. Undaunted, you accepted this challenge and took another historic step forward this week, and I congratulate you all.

We started this week with a positive development, namely, with the announcement of the dates and venue of the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. On behalf of you all, I am certain I am correct to once again extend our sincere thanks to the Government of China, President of the Conference of the Parties, for their flexibility, and I look forward to them leading us from the driver's seat. I pay tribute to the Government of Canada, the host of the seat



of the Secretariat, for their generosity in stepping in steadfastly and offering us Montreal as the venue of the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

I would like to thank the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the United Nations Office at Nairobi, for hosting us in Nairobi this week. I would also like to personally thank Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, as well as Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of UNON, and their teams for support in organizing this meeting.

I would also like to offer my thanks to all the donors who have contributed to this meeting. In addition to those mentioned in my opening statement, the Japan Biodiversity Fund has provided support for youth representatives and for the representative of women to participate in this meeting and a related workshop. We have also received support from the European Union and its member States for the convening of this meeting. Let me therefore extend my sincere thanks to you all for your continued support.

May I also congratulate the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Mr. Basile van Havre of Canada and Mr. Francis Ogwal of Uganda. They have worked tirelessly to guide these important discussions and bring together a wide range of diverging perspectives while maintaining an inclusive and transparent approach.

I would also like to thank the Bureau members of the Conference of the Parties for their guidance under the able leadership of Ms. Guomei Zhou, representative of the President of the Conference. The Bureau members have represented their regions with efficiency and professionalism and have provided the guidance needed to deliver a successful multilateral meeting.

My sincere thanks also go to the co-leads of the different contact groups and other facilitators. You have worked countless hours, often late into the night, to help advance our work. You have stayed the course, and you are to be commended.

May I also express my heartfelt gratitude to our interpreters, the behind-the-scenes heroes who make our meetings possible. Communication is key for all aspects of life and critical for advancing our work on biodiversity. To them, along with the technical support staff at Interactio, thanks for once again helping us communicate our many views to each other and to the world.

Finally, I cannot forget to sincerely thank my highly committed team at the Secretariat for their dedication and their steadfast commitment to advancing biodiversity conservation and protection by supporting you all during this meeting and beyond. To Jyoti Mathur-Filipp for her role as Secretary of the Working Group.

Equally, my heartfelt thanks, in particular, to my Deputy and buddy David Cooper, who has been there from early mornings to late nights throughout the week for everybody. Thank you very much to the entire team. I know how hard each of you works behind the scenes. Your contributions have been essential for our work undertaken here and, I trust, will continue even beyond.

### *Closing*

In closing, let me congratulate you all on these rewarding deliberations here in Nairobi. The Working Group made significant progress towards the finalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework for adoption at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. You have set out your ambitions with respect to the goals of the framework and have refined the essential targets related to conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing. You have worked to develop a plan for resource mobilization and other means of implementation and highlighted the contribution of nature to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

You have also devoted time to charting the pathway for an agreement on the sharing of benefits from digital sequencing information on genetic resources. Notably, you also sought to strengthen the role of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders and to ensure that all voices will be heard, and no one will be left behind.

The many challenges and struggles of the past few years have reminded us of the value of multilateral cooperation and unified action among nations. Later this year, it is my sincere hope, we will send the world a much-needed signal of positivity and inspiration. I look forward to welcoming you all to Montreal for the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, under the presidency of China.

Our Co-Chairs have proposed a road map from Nairobi to Montreal, and from the Secretariat's side we will do our best to ensure all arrangements are in place. However, I remind Parties that, as our Co-chairs highlighted, this will be subject to the availability of resources. Not only do we have to recover the deficit for the ongoing meeting, which stands at around half a million dollars, we also need funds to ensure the adequate participation of delegates from least developed countries and small island States, and to cover the conference costs of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and of the fifth meeting of the Working Group. Depending upon ongoing discussions, the total amount may be on the order of 10 million dollars, which we will need to receive in the next few weeks in order to comply with United Nations rules and procurement requirements.

And as we now embark on the final stretch to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, I take the opportunity to remind Parties and observers of the critical importance of registering early and promptly in order to ensure that the proper arrangements, such as visa issuance, are in place in good time. In the coming weeks, the Secretariat will send out additional information, and the deadline that will be announced for registration will be strictly followed. Therefore, please register as early as possible.

At the fifteenth meeting, the world will come together to collectively deliver a new global agreement to reverse nature loss in the next decade and beyond. Together, with the full and active engagement of all stakeholders, we will deliver a clear, ambitious and transformative global framework on biodiversity, all with the aim of achieving the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”.

May you all have safe travels home, and my warmest wishes to you all for the days ahead.

Looking forward to welcoming you all in Montreal in a few months.

Thank you.