

**STATEMENT BY ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
AT THE**

**MINISTERIAL SEGMENT**

**EIGHTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)**

**15 September 2022**

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*Thank you, Mr. President.  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues and friends,*

I'm honoured to join you with an update on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and on the preparations for the 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference to be held in Montreal, Canada, this December.

I thank your Excellency, Abdou Karim Sall, President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, for the kind invitation, and the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, for organizing and helping African leaders champion the biodiversity agenda.

Our past actions have unfortunately accelerated the deterioration of ecosystems, impacting our economies, society, and culture. For sure, this cannot continue, otherwise our children and grandchildren will have nothing to inherit for their well-being.

Economically speaking, biodiversity loss stands to affect over half of the world's total GDP, or 44 trillion USD.

The African Union Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want* expressly recognizes that Africa's development and prospects could be jeopardized if urgent actions are not taken to safeguard biodiversity.

Building on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Agenda 2063, and on the Green Recovery Action Plan 2021-2027, clearly the region can lead a green transformation.

We are facing global setbacks from climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, fuel prices and food insecurity. But we can still shift away from activities that erode natural capital, and move towards those that support ecosystem resilience, human well-being, and prosperity as part of the solutions to the global setbacks.

We must rally attention for biodiversity, enlist individual and collective actions, and mobilize urgent financing.

This year's UN Biodiversity Conference will include the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety and the fourth meeting of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resource and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their utilization. Majority of the countries in Africa are parties to all if not most of these three treaties.

The Conference will be preceded by the fifth and last meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be held from 3 to 5 December - a process which has been going on for the last four years.

Upon invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, ministers responsible for biodiversity and chief executives of relevant organizations will attend a high-level segment at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, from 15 to 17 December 2022, to review, report on and renew commitments aligned with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as finalize and agree on any possible outstanding issues under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The remaining three months to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties require your political wisdom, leadership and commitment to build consensus on remaining elements of the post-2020 framework.

It is clear that implementation of the framework will require mobilization of financial resources, enhanced capacity development, mainstreaming and cooperation.

Measures must also include good governance and proactive engagement of all stakeholders and rights holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, the private sector, academia, and last but not least, subnational authorities.

The adoption of the framework depends on reaching an agreement on the effective sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of digital sequence information on genetic resources, calling for political will and compromise.

As Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, your negotiators are working hard to reach consensus on the different components of the post-2020 framework, including outcome-oriented goals underpinned by action-focused targets to address all drivers of biodiversity loss, as well as means of implementation.

In this regard, I am honored to be joined by one of our own Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Mr. Francis Ogwal of Uganda.

Together, with Mr. Basile van Havre of Canada, they are working closely with all Parties to finalize the text of the framework which, unfortunately, is currently full of square brackets (1820), showing that negotiators are still far from reaching agreement on most issues.

We will hear more from Mr. Ogwal on the status of negotiations, the mitigating process ahead, and what is still needed to finalize the text into a manageable state for you, Ministers, to consider for adoption at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in December.

We count on your support to conclude the process of preparing the post-2020 framework and shape the outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In line with the theme for this eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, let us ensure that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework translates into opportunities that lift and support people and nature everywhere.

Thank you.

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