

**Statement by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the first meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation**

Montreal, 14 June 2023

Good day and welcome to Montreal for the first meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

The Informal Advisory Group was established by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting in decision 15/8, paragraph 24, to provide strategic advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, capacity development, knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism.

Of course, all of this is to support the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was also adopted last December.

We are pleased that you are here to embark on this enormous but critical task that will contribute to the success of the Framework.

While the adoption of the Framework was a historic achievement, it is only the first step in our journey towards realizing the global vision of “living in harmony with nature” by 2050.

Now we must move from agreement to action.

We must take this global agenda and set ambitious, yet achievable, national targets, and identify on-the-ground actions that can support their achievement.

The urgent implementation of the Framework requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and will be guided and facilitated through various support mechanisms and strategies. These include the mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, and the mechanisms and strategies to be guided by this Group, in particular the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, the mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism.

Strengthening the means of implementation is critical to the successful implementation of the Framework.

In this regard, Target 20 of the Framework calls for the strengthening of capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and promoting development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation to meet the need for effective implementation.

The decision by the Conference of the Parties to establish a technical and scientific cooperation mechanism is also an important step in the right direction.

There is an urgent need to do more to facilitate and support implementation.

We have learned a lot over the last decade about the challenges of implementation and how we can do it better.

Capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation are crucial for enhancing the abilities, resilience and effectiveness of individuals, institutions and systems at various levels for improved biodiversity-related decision-making, action and outcomes.

Target 21 also reminds us of the need to ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective governance and management of biodiversity.

This includes the identification of threats to biodiversity, determining needs and priorities, planning and taking actions and setting benchmarks, as well as monitoring and reporting progress on the implementation of the goals and targets set out in Parties' national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in the Framework.

Parties and other actors need to have commensurate technical and functional expertise, knowledge, tools, technologies and institutional capacity to effectively prioritize, plan, implement and monitor relevant strategies, programmes and activities at the national level.

This meeting provides an opportunity to start "unpacking" the elements of Targets 20 and 21 of the Framework and other relevant decisions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, notably those related to capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation (decision 15/8), knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism (decision 15/16), mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (decision 15/6) and the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (decision 15/5).

I urge you all to use this meeting to share your views and suggestions on how Parties and other actors could accelerate and effectively deliver capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and knowledge management in support of national efforts to update, implement and monitor their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

You also have an important role to play in providing advice on the modalities for operationalizing the mechanism to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation established in paragraph 25 of decision 15/8.

We need to learn from past experiences and consider how best to support Parties and other stakeholders to make the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework a reality on the ground.

After all, we need urgent action and urgent implementation in order to see concrete results by 2030.

I thank you for being here today and I wish you a fruitful meeting.

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