



**Statement by David Cooper**  
**Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity**  
**International Human Rights Day**  
**10 December 2023**  
**Theme: Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All**

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On this Human Rights Day we mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 75th anniversary is an opportunity to rejuvenate the Universal Declaration, demonstrate how it can meet the needs of our time, and advance its promise of freedom, equality and justice for all.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological diversity last December is a comprehensive plan for everyone to take action to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030 and to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet.

It is a pledge to create a world in which people live in harmony with nature, respecting everyone's dignity and protecting the inherent rights of individuals and peoples.

Its four goals are to ensure that: species, ecosystems and genetic diversity are protected; nature's contributions to people are maintained; benefits are shared fairly and equitably; and all countries have the necessary financial and other means of implementation. Thus, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is an essential contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Implementation of the Framework will follow a human rights-based approach respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights. The Framework acknowledges the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and its implementation will contribute to the fulfilment of that right. It calls for all to respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including their rights over their traditional knowledge, lands, territories and resources. It also promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as intergenerational equity. The Framework calls for access to justice and information related to biodiversity, the full for participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities in decision making, and aims to ensure the full protection of human rights defenders.

As we commemorate this International Day of Human Rights and reaffirm our commitment to protecting and upholding human rights everywhere, let us also commit to working together to achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to ensure a liveable future for us all.

