



**Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,  
Astrid Schomaker, at the closure of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary  
Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**

Panama City  
24 October 2025

Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,  
Distinguished delegates,

Dear participants,

Our meeting is drawing to a close, and what a meeting it has been.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the Government and people of Panama for their hospitality, to our interpreters showing maximum flexibility, to the Department of Safety and Security of the United Nations for keeping us safe, to our Chair for guiding our work throughout five fairly intense days, to the co-chairs of the various contact groups for their tireless efforts to forge compromise and to all of you for your commitment, patience and perseverance.

A big thank you also to the staff of the conference centre, who kept us hydrated and fed, and to the staff of the Secretariat who have worked hard and slept very little.

I would like to thank all partners, stakeholders and observers who have gone to great lengths to attend and contribute to the conversations on the margins of the meeting; in the halls and in the side events, you shared your thoughts, insights, dedication and expertise to ensure the role of science in our discussions this week.

What happens in our side events makes a key contribution to advancing collectively.

Let me recognize in particular the remarkable contribution of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services this week, reminding all of us of the need to invest in fostering the science-policy interface and inspiring our work.

A special word of appreciation also goes to the representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and to the representatives of women and youth, who made their voices heard and reminded us of the need to act with the required sense of urgency.

I also wish to thank again the Governments of Canada, Finland, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland for their generous financial support, which has enabled the participation of delegates from 92 Parties.

The list of donors used to be longer, and so I call again upon all countries in a position to do so, including new donors, to do their utmost as we move towards 2026.

Dear delegates,

The wide range of themes that you have discussed this week demonstrates the importance of the scientific, technical and technological work that this body is entrusted with.

Although consensus could not be reached on all items on the agenda, the Subsidiary Body has achieved some important progress.

To highlight just one issue, your hard work delivered agreement on the scope and format of the global report, which will be instrumental to a successful global review of collective progress in the

implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This is a crucial contribution to a successful seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

We need to continue our discussions, including on how to make our meetings more efficient. Thank you for your flexibility in engaging in new modalities for effective meeting proceedings and for embracing early submissions.

Please give us your feedback on how we can further improve our working methods.

Colleagues,

We are exactly 12 months away from the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. We must make this time count.

I urge all Parties to accelerate implementation, submit national targets, update national biodiversity strategies and national plans and ensure the timely submission of their seventh national reports by February 2026.

As you know, these next 12 months will also see intensive international work on biodiversity, among them meetings of the Conferences of the Parties of our sister conventions the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and our own three meetings of the subsidiary bodies of this Convention.

Some issues we are dealing with will also feature on the agendas of the Conferences of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

We collectively owe it to the world to make these meetings stepping stones to a global surge of action to preserve and restore our world's biodiversity in Yerevan.

Distinguished delegates,

Dear participants,

On this day, United Nations Day, we are celebrating the eightieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations.

We, at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, see in your collective commitment a powerful symbol and reminder of multilateralism, the kind that the United Nations sustains and champions as the only viable response to the global, intertwined crises that are affecting the world.

So happy United Nations Day to all of us.

To those of you staying for the inaugural meeting of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, I wish you a restful weekend, and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

To those leaving Panama, please have a safe journey home, and we will see you soon.

Our work for nature and for people, their well-being and prosperity will continue, has to continue, so let us make it happen moving forward.

Thank you.