

**Opening statement of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity for
the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

Rome
16 February 2026

Ms. Edith Magnolia Bastidas Calderón, Vice-Minister of Environmental Policies and Regulations of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia,

Mr. Robert Abisaghomonyan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia,

Distinguished delegates,

Welcome to Rome.

It is great to be back at the beautiful headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in this magnificent city. I would like to thank our FAO colleagues for hosting our biodiversity meetings again.

My gratitude also goes to the donors for their generous financial support, which has enabled the participation of Parties from eligible countries and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in this meeting.

Thank you, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Monaco, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

May I strongly encourage other potential donors to step forward to replenish the trust fund? We have many days of meetings ahead of us in Nairobi and Yerevan and require more funding to support participation. May I also encourage countries eligible for support to please explore all possible avenues for assistance?

For this sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, we hope to see the same spirit of consensus and solidarity that prevailed at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, first in Cali, and then here in Rome.

Our work is increasingly in the spotlight.

Biodiversity has risen higher up in the agendas of the business sector and finance ministers, who are waking up to the very real risk that biodiversity loss poses for businesses, investments, assets and macrofiscal stability, even national security.

Biodiversity is the ecological foundation of our economies and yet, still, for every dollar invested to save it, \$30 are being invested in activities that harm biodiversity.

Since the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, important progress has been made, which demonstrates the impact of your enduring commitment to multilateralism at a time when it has never mattered more for people and nature.

We will be discussing some of the elements of that progress this week.

We held the inaugural meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities four months ago in Panama, agreed on the structure and scope of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, started working with our new 18 technical and scientific cooperation support centres, opened the Cali Fund and worked on its rule book.

We owe this progress to your work and continued commitment, and we will depend on that sustained commitment to maintain the post-sixteenth meeting momentum on the road to Yerevan later this year.

This week's meeting constitutes an important milestone towards making Yerevan a success.

We hope that the Secretariat's analysis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and of national targets will provide useful insights to all of you.

Most importantly, we hope that its insights will convey the urgency of a surge of national ambition and action towards meeting the 23 global targets of the Framework in a comprehensive and timely fashion.

There is no doubt that a critical area for acceleration is resource mobilization. May our deliberations on the thematic studies on biodiversity finance, the assessment of capacity needs, technical and scientific cooperation and Article 4 (4) of the Nagoya Protocol help to take our collective endeavour forward.

An area often overlooked is gender-responsive action, so let me mention it here. The analysis of national targets, which you will consider at this meeting, has revealed that only about 40 per cent of them address any aspect of Target 23 of the Framework, and only 20 per cent of national targets analysed addressed women's equal rights and access to land and natural resources.

There are still many updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans that need to be submitted, so this is a call to all of you to seize the opportunity to make them more gender-inclusive.

Let us this week also make determined progress on the agenda items on international cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, including FAO.

Cooperation with other conventions, including the other two Rio conventions, is key not only to finding synergies to accelerate action on interconnected environmental crises, but also to increasing efficiencies and reducing the reporting burden for countries.

Dear colleagues and friends,

This CBD marathon year will keep us all very busy.

From the Secretariat's side, we will work hard to further increase our efficiency and effectiveness to support your work in the decisive five years ahead of us, and beyond. I would like to express my appreciation for the functional review mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting and made possible thanks to the generosity of our Parties, which is helping us in this endeavour.

Since the beginning of the year, and guided by its recommendations, I have initiated the implementation of short- and medium-term actions that are budget-neutral, feasible and essential to improve the way that the Secretariat functions to provide the best service to Parties.

As I conclude and this meeting gets under way, let us remember what we are here for. Our planet's life-support system is not in good shape, let us work together to strengthen it. People's lives, prosperity, health and well-being are at stake.

I wish us a productive and successful sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
