



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

1 August 2026
Nairobi

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

Distinguished delegates,

The twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is about to close. Thanks to your dedication, discipline and stamina, we have made it through a packed agenda once again.

Your willingness to embrace the early statement submission modality has made a difference, as has the constructive spirit that you have collectively demonstrated that you want to advance here over the last few days.

Earlier today, all delegates received a link to a survey on their experience with the modalities for the early submission of statements. Please take a few moments to share your feedback to help us to continue to improve efficiency.

Together, we have taken here an important step forward towards a successful seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as the incoming Presidency has already reminded us.

When we came to Nairobi, we knew that our task was to develop recommendations that would support the accelerated implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and inform the work of the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. I believe that you have achieved this objective. You have developed recommendations on a range of important matters, among them the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, providing a strong basis for further discussions in Yerevan.

We all know that the clock is ticking and that the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties must be the moment when we unite, step up and speed up to maintain our chance to win the race to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the United Nations Environment Programme for hosting us here in Nairobi, adding to our motivation by allowing us to see some biodiversity up close, and for the excellent support provided throughout the meeting.

Thank you to our interpreters and translators for their professionalism and dedication; to the Department of Safety and Security for looking after us; to our Chair for guiding our work

throughout this intensive week; to the co-chairs of the various contact groups for their tireless efforts to bridge differences and build consensus; and once again to all of you for your commitment, patience and perseverance.

A big thank you also to the staff of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, who took care of us, and to my colleagues of the Secretariat who once again defied sleep deprivation by burning the midnight oil long after evening contact groups had closed. Thank you so much, colleagues.

A special word of appreciation goes to the representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the representatives of women, youth and other stakeholders, whose perspectives reminded us throughout the week that implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework requires inclusive approaches, diverse knowledge systems and meaningful partnerships.

Distinguished delegates,

The baton now goes to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to take us forward on the path to Yerevan. May the spirit of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice guide its deliberations.

To those of you staying in Nairobi for the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, I wish you a restful Sunday, and we look forward to continuing our work together next week.

To those leaving Kenya, *safari njema*, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you.