

**Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,
Astrid Schomaker, at the opening of the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

4 August 2026
Nairobi

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends,

A very warm welcome to the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the largest ever.

A special welcome to the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Robert Abisoghomyan.

I am grateful, to begin with, to the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the United Nations Environment Programme for all the support provided to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in organizing this meeting, hard on the heels, of course, of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

I also wish to reiterate our gratitude to Ireland, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, as well as the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, for their generous financial support, which has enabled the participation of delegates from 118 Parties.

Colleagues, what an exciting moment this is. All meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation are important, but this one, I believe, carries special significance, for at least two reasons: its timing and its agenda.

To start with timing, at the present meeting, the Subsidiary Body will conclude its work a mere eight weeks (looking towards the Armenian delegation) ahead of the start of the pivotal 2026 United Nations Biodiversity Conference.

In Yerevan, the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol will mark the halfway point in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

At its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will consider the recommendations coming out of the present meeting for numerous and momentous decisions, including in the context of the all-important first global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework.

That brings me to my second point about why the present meeting carries special importance: the agenda. The expected recommendations of this meeting are key to success in Yerevan and then, of course, beyond.

I am sure that we will hear the word “acceleration” within these walls over the next days a number of times, because we all know that this is what it takes. The facts contained in the now-peer-reviewed global

report on collective progress are unequivocal: we collectively must do more and much faster if the world is to achieve the 23 targets of the Framework.

But there is so much encouraging news as well. As the draft global report tells us, the adoption of the Framework has triggered unprecedented engagement and action for biodiversity across the globe and across all types of actors. And it was really encouraging to see this spirit also being carried into the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice last week, when Parties worked constructively at all hours of day and night to bridge differences and move the agenda forward.

Yet we also know that progress has been conspicuously uneven. Some of the targets, such as the classic conservation targets, have gained a lot of visibility and are progressing, albeit slowly. But areas that are of particular relevance to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation – the means of implementation, from finance to capacity-building to access to knowledge and information – are reflected in some of the targets that are lagging behind.

Inertia is not the problem here. The lack of progress in these crucial areas often stems from persisting imbalances in public policies and investment decisions. Biodiversity finance is a case in point. In fact, investment in nature has grown steadily since the adoption of the Framework, but it remains largely outpaced by the volume and scale of money being poured into activities that harm biodiversity. For every dollar that the world invests in protecting nature, we know that roughly 30 dollars go towards activities that fuel its destruction.

The world, we believe, clearly now sees the importance of biodiversity action, but it is not yet acting accordingly, to the detriment of biodiversity, economies and present and future generations. And yet we know that it would take only a fraction of the world's global gross domestic product to invest in nature – by some estimates, only 0.5 per cent – to meet global biodiversity, climate and land restoration targets.

This is a paradox, and addressing the paradox is now a global emergency that can be addressed only through multilateralism coupled with resolute national action. Yes, the geopolitical headwinds are strong. We should have no illusions about shifting priorities in public spending quickly. But the case for swifter and bolder biodiversity action has never been more compelling and, I believe, has never been more recognized, including in the finance sector.

Recent shortages of fossil fuel derivatives, such as synthetic fertilizers, are a reminder of the need to invest in the health of soils and pollinators for our food security, nutrition and well-being. The heatwaves that are scorching vast swathes of the planet, the dramatic wildfires in Western Europe and the fresh warnings about an unprecedented El Niño are stark signs that we must heed, and they paint a picture of an accelerating crisis in which climate change and biodiversity loss are mutually reinforcing and bringing us towards dangerous tipping points.

So, acting for nature at the required scale and pace starts with acknowledging that today's risks are tomorrow's staggering costs, that sustainable consumption and production and nature-based solutions are our best insurance policy and that science is our best policy.

With that acknowledgement, overcoming the hurdles that impede the accelerated implementation of the Framework becomes an imperative. That is what you are here to work on.



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Biological Diversity

I am confident, distinguished delegates, that you will find the wisdom and the stamina to achieve what we came to Nairobi for, that is, strong recommendations that the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting can use to bring about a surge of implementation in the last four years separating us from 2030.

Let us also work to leverage the commitment and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, scientific organizations, the private sector, subnational governments, cities and other actors to fulfil the promise of the Framework. National Governments cannot do it alone, but we have many allies and friends, and we are so happy to see so many representatives in great numbers here in this room.

To do that, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation first must get the job done here in Nairobi. I wish all of us a very successful meeting.

Thank you so much.