

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

12 August 2026
Nairobi

Dear delegates,

It has been an intense meeting for all of us, this seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. It is now coming to a close. It has been an emotional but ultimately productive meeting, featuring a high number of contacts group, friends-of-the-Chair groups and plenary sessions.

Over the past 10 days, you have been working hard, sometimes skipping meals and working late into the night – in other words, going the extra mile so that this body could reach consensus wherever possible and adopt strong recommendations for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. For that, from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of all of my colleagues, we thank you.

I think that we can all leave Nairobi with a reasonable sense of satisfaction at what has been achieved here. We feel satisfaction because we have worked hard and done what we could, but we also know that we need a lot of commitment and stamina to push our negotiations across the finish line in Yerevan.

In Yerevan, we expect the global review to chart pathways for addressing the gaps identified in the global report on collective progress, building on all the substantive issues discussed at two meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, two meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and one 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.

We have an important stopover on the way. Thank you, China, for hosting the Kunming dialogue in a few weeks. This is an inclusive forum that will allow Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, academia, the private sector, including the financial sector, and many other stakeholders to discuss, without having to negotiate. We hope that this will boost the Party-led global review by fostering broad, whole-of-society buy-in.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating our gratitude to colleagues of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the United Nations Environment Programme for supporting the present meeting. This includes everyone, from cleaning to catering to security, whose additional efforts we appreciate.

And kudos to our amazing interpreters and my hardworking colleagues of the Secretariat.

Speaking of colleagues in the Secretariat, there is one that has been a crucial success factor to many meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the subsidiary bodies. You all know her as a steady presence in the background frequently featuring on the screen right behind the Chair and the meeting

Secretary. This is Sandra Meehan's last meeting. We certainly do not begrudge her retirement, but we will miss her dearly.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Let me acknowledge in particular our Chair, Clarissa Souza della Nina of Brazil, who steered this ship to port not only safely but with poise and deftness. I think it is fair to say that, without her, we would not be where we are right now.

And I also want to acknowledge the extra work that our super-dedicated, and also somehow super-human, co-chairs of contact groups, friends of the Chair, friends of co-chairs and informal groups have done.

Thank you, and thank you everyone for your commitment. This closing statement is coming to a close now.

Now is the time to prepare for "taking action for nature" in Yerevan and beyond.

Travel well, rest well and see you soon.
