

Kunming dialogue on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in support of the global review

**Closing remarks by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,
Astrid Schomaker**

Kunming, China
9 September 2026

Excellencies, distinguished guests, dear participants,

As we wrap up here in Kunming, please allow me to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China and to Yunnan Province for hosting the dialogue.

My particular thanks go to Minister Huang and the Governor of Yunnan Province for their leadership and engagement this week, and to all the local staff and organizers whose hard work have made this a well-organized, successful and enjoyable meeting.

It has been a privilege for us to gather here in Kunming and to hear about, or even see first-hand, some of the impressive conservation efforts under way in Yunnan, alongside the rich culture of the province.

My thanks also go to Canada for co-chairing this dialogue, and to Secretary of State Provost for travelling to Kunming. To paraphrase her remarks at our opening, no country can address these challenges alone, and the success of the Framework depends on action across Governments and society. Together, China and Canada have carried forward the leadership and partnership that helped to deliver the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Leadership and partnership are two crucial terms for the successful implementation of the Framework.

Huge thanks also to Armenia, our presidency for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for its leadership and engagement.

Finally, my thanks also go to the co-facilitators of all of our working sessions for deftly leading this work and, as always, to colleagues in the Convention Secretariat, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme, for their support in organizing this gathering here in Kunming.

As we all know, this dialogue has taken place less than six weeks before we meet in Yerevan to review our collective progress in implementing the Framework. In many ways, the conversations we have had here offer a preview of discussions to come in Armenia.

You have heard me say many times that we have seen unprecedented engagement with the Framework in the nearly four years since its adoption. This week's informal dialogue here in Kunming has borne witness to this, in breakout groups and plenary, in evening sessions and hallways, and online participants from all over the world have shared their perspectives, suggestions, concerns and commitments. You have had the chance to let your hair down a bit, to take off your negotiating masks and to have honest conversations with one another.

And you have not shied away from the difficult issues: the means of implementation, access to resources, meaningful participation and the practical challenges of turning commitments into action.

What we have been able to see this week is a reminder of exactly the kind of passion, commitment and ingenuity that the world needs in order to halt and reverse biodiversity loss – what we mean when we say a “whole-of-society” approach.

While I have not had the opportunity to hear all discussions first-hand, I have had the chance to speak with so many of you this week and I have been reminded, and inspired, by your humanity and concern for our common agenda. I have also had the chance to hear more about solutions and proposals for overcoming gaps and hurdles in implementation, such as the crucial role that the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres can play in bridging capacity and finance gaps, and the important partnerships that mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund can strengthen.

As we move swiftly now towards the 2026 United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Yerevan, we at the Secretariat will ensure that the outcomes of this dialogue are seen and heard, including at high-level opportunities. These outcomes need to inform a successful meeting of the Conference of the Parties and reverberate beyond it to help to address the real, on-the-ground challenges that you face at home.

I thank you again for your engagement this week in the Kunming dialogue and look forward to taking this important work forward with you to Armenia.

Thank you once again. *Xie Xie*. And see you all soon in Yerevan.
