



Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montréal QC H2Y 1N9

September 15, 2017

Dear Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer,

Canada would like to thank the Executive Secretary for the opportunity to provide comments on the preparatory process and timetable for the post-2020 strategic plan for biodiversity (CBD Notification 2017-052).

Canada would like to ensure that the process to develop a post-2020 strategic plan for biodiversity is inclusive and takes into consideration the needs and interests of all levels of government, Indigenous peoples, sectors, youth, as well as from the academic community and non-government organizations. In our view, ensuring active engagement in the development of a post-2020 strategic plan will strengthen its implementation and effectiveness.

The note “Approaches for the Preparation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework” prepared by the Executive Secretary, and distributed through CBD Notification 2017-052, provides useful background and context for the post-2020 strategic plan process and touches upon many of the key issues that should be considered when developing the content of the post-2020 strategic plan. Once a clear preparatory process has been agreed to at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (in November 2018), on the basis of a recommendation from the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (in July 2018), Canada suggests that the Executive Secretary, in partnership with the COP-Bureau, could then begin the process of facilitating input from Parties and others in an inclusive manner.

This should include a variety of mechanisms. For example, the Executive Secretary could develop a questionnaire to Parties, Indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, sectors, as well as the academic community and non-government organizations through a notification process. Input could also be obtained through international on-line forums and discussion groups.

Canada also supports the suggestion for a global workshop involving representatives of Parties, Indigenous peoples, sectors, youth, as well as the academic community and non-government organizations to gather input on the content and structure of the post-2020 strategic plan. We would suggest that such a workshop could utilize modern technology solutions that would enable off-site, real-time participation and have a focused, well-defined mandate; one limited enough in

scope to allow substantive progress within the duration provided. We would suggest that the timing of this workshop be in advance of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation where the workshop outcomes could be considered in formulating a recommendation to COP-15.

Canada further supports the proposal to hold consultations with other biodiversity-related conventions, Rio Conventions and other relevant United Nations processes, including in advance of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

In addition to the proposals mentioned above that were provided in the note “Approaches for the Preparation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework”, Canada would also like to highlight the importance of seeking out opportunities to consider and incorporate information from the growing body of evidence on biodiversity, in order to review results against each of the Aichi targets. Examples of this include the Global Biodiversity, IPBES assessments, and other relevant reports, as well as Indigenous knowledge systems. On this note, SBSTTA should have a role in providing advice on the evidence base for a post-2020 strategic plan on biodiversity.

Finally, while the CBD Secretariat should lead efforts towards a post-2020 strategic plan on biodiversity at the global level, all Parties could be invited to engage and facilitate domestic input from all levels of government, Indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, sectors, as well as the academic community and non-government organizations.

Canada appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the process for the development of the post-2020 strategic plan on biodiversity and looks forward to further discussions on this at the Second Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in July 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. van Havre', with a stylized, cursive script.

Basile van Havre
CBD National Focal Point