



December 15, 2018

## CANADIAN SUBMISSION

### Notification 2018-063

1. In SBI recommendation 2/19, the SBI requested the Executive Secretary to invite, for submission by 15 December 2018, initial views from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, international organizations, civil society organizations, private sector and other stakeholders on the aspects of the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including (a) the scientific underpinning of the scale and scope of actions necessary to make progress towards the 2050 Vision; and (b) a possible structure for the post-2020 biodiversity framework. Further, in its recommendation 2/6, the SBI also invited Parties, other Governments, stakeholders and relevant international organizations and initiatives, to review their experiences in implementing Aichi Biodiversity Target 20 as well as the strategy and the targets for resource mobilization, and in using relevant guidance, and, building on this review to submit, also by 15 December 2018, views on the scope and content of the resource mobilization component of the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

In response to the above notification, Canada submits the following views and comments:

2. The Government of Canada supports exploring options for optimizing the global biodiversity targets using the current structure as the basis. While there may be some good opportunities for making substantial changes to the set of targets, it is not likely that all Parties would be able to arrive at a consensus on these changes. As a result, Canada would not be in favour of increasing the number of global biodiversity targets. Canada would be supportive of work to explore new sub-targets (called target elements by the CBD) that are not addressed in the current set of targets, if there is a clear need based on evidence.

3. The CBD has regularly recognized the critical role of Indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as women, as stewards of biodiversity and nature, and its sustainable use. Most of the world's biodiversity is located in areas managed by Indigenous peoples and local communities. In addition, empowering women and vulnerable groups to manage biodiversity and natural resources has been shown to make biodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts more effective and efficient. Canada is therefore very supportive of highlighting the important role of women, and of Indigenous peoples and local communities as an overarching element of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

4. Canada is of the view that a new global biodiversity framework should include enhanced accountability of Parties to their commitments. Canada is supportive of tracking countries' individual progress against the implementation of global CBD commitments as a key element in making the Convention more effective. Regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention is a positive and necessary exercise. Canada is supportive of ongoing efforts to strengthen the accountability of CBD Parties towards their



own global and national commitments but also of exploring other options as part of the process to develop the Post 2020 framework. Canada is supportive of review processes that examine the progress being made by Parties in a technical, objective, and transparent manner, and that facilitate enhanced efforts by Parties in a way that ensures an increase in collective ambition and progress over time.

5. Another way to increase accountability is to improve Parties' ability to measure progress. Canada would like to see updated global biodiversity targets that are specific and measurable, including quantitative targets where appropriate, and supported by clear and meaningful indicators and/or quantitative target elements. An exercise to update target elements and/or indicators should be carried out in tandem with the establishment of global targets.

6. Canada is also supportive of Parties better aligning their updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the global biodiversity targets and clearly indicating how national-level efforts will contribute to the global targets. This would ensure that progress towards the achievement of each target is better tracked. It would also improve the tracking of ambition and accountability and to identify gap areas where efforts should be strengthened. Support for a globally harmonized reporting approach would be welcome, through the adoption of a standardized set of scalable global biodiversity indicators.

7. Canada thinks that the existing structure of targets within strategic goals continues to be relevant, but is supportive of re-assessing the organization of the 20 Aichi targets to focus on actions and targets that will be the most effective in positively influencing the state of biodiversity. Canada is supportive of efforts to simplify the CBD Strategic Plan's mission statement and its targets to make them easier to communicate.

8. Canada believes that a 10-year framework could be an appropriate timeframe for the next set of global targets, particularly in light of the 2030 timeframe for the current Sustainable Development Goals. However, Canada is open to proposals that set longer-term targets, perhaps up until 2050, with incremental targets along the way. Canada sees potential value in proposals that take regular stock of progress in meeting global targets and re-assess Parties commitments (a so-called "ratcheting-up mechanism"). However, these proposals will need to consider Parties' domestic timelines and processes.

9. Canada is very supportive of developing an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Voluntary commitments, while providing useful impetus, may not directly lead the global community to scientifically-supported goals and outcomes. Parties should be working first and foremost with the scientific community and others to better understand what we need to achieve, rather than focusing on what we are willing to achieve. This said, the use of early voluntary commitments from key Parties, in key areas, and/or from key productive sectors and governments, could help set the bar for higher levels of ambition, improving biodiversity mainstreaming and engage other sectors of society. For this reason



Canada is open to the use of voluntary commitments alongside further development of evidence-based targets. There are real practical challenges for some Parties, such as those like Canada that function within a federal system where responsibility for biodiversity is shared amongst different levels of government, and with numerous important stakeholders and Indigenous peoples, to be able to arrive at a consolidated national commitment. Such a process could take several years and may not permit some Parties to be ready ahead of COP-15 to make voluntary commitments, particularly as we continue to focus our efforts on achieving our 2020 targets.

10. Canada is supportive of ensuring that the post-2020 targets are well-aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, as well as other processes, such as the strategic goals of the two other Rio Conventions, and the various other biodiversity-related treaties and conventions.

11. Finally, Canada is of the view that addressing the direct and underlying drivers of biodiversity loss will ultimately require behavioural change by individuals, organisations and governments. Understanding, awareness and appreciation of the diverse values of biodiversity underpin the willingness of individuals to make the necessary changes and actions and to create the “political will” for governments to act. A growing body of evidence consistently demonstrates that, in addition to awareness, meaningful experiences and connectedness with nature are key to engendering stronger valuation, support, and action for biodiversity conservation across generations, sectors, and societies. Increased attention to the importance of public engagement and connectedness with nature will be important for achieving behaviour change and enhancing the political will for governments to implement the Convention.