

Submission by the EU and its Member States to CBD Notification 2018-063:

Preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

With the full support from the EU and its Member States, COP Decision XIII/1 requested the Executive Secretary to include in the proposed COP 14 decision on the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity options to foster commitments and strengthen implementation. We welcome the further consultation, pursuant to Notification 2018-063 on "*options for strengthening implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including means of fostering commitments and building political momentum, as well as on the need for, and modalities of, voluntary commitments.*"

In Nagoya, in 2010, the EU and its Member States were pleased and proud to have agreed on an ambitious and encompassing global framework for biodiversity and its 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In addition, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development explicitly recognises the importance of halting biodiversity loss, as well as the crucial role of biological diversity to eradicate poverty, provide food and fresh water, and improve life in cities. Biodiversity underpins the functioning and the resilience of ecosystems and their contribution to human well-being, making it vital to achieve all the SDGs and should be reflected in any ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Nonetheless, the EU and its Member States are deeply concerned because we are not on track to achieve the Aichi Targets, and the evidence suggests that biodiversity loss continues to accelerate in all regions at an unprecedented rate. The relevant assessments and scenarios, such as the GBO and those issued by IPBES, as well as the scenario analysis prepared for the SBSTTA in December 2017, clearly show that the next decade will be decisive for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and the impacts on the ecosystem services it provides. Therefore, the EU and its Member States invite all Parties and stakeholders to shape a future framework that mobilises our societies towards the transformational change that is needed for the well-being of current and future generations.

As already stated at SBI 2, the EU and its Member States propose to include the following options in the draft decision on the preparatory process, as an invitation for further consideration by COP 14, without excluding other options that other Parties or stakeholders may propose.

The process should be organised in a way that enables the development of ambitious, realistic, and where appropriate and feasible, measurable and time bound targets building on and strengthening the current Aichi targets, and based on the best available scientific knowledge, that drive actions and allow progress to be tracked effectively. Furthermore, building on the current indicator framework where appropriate, the indicators for measuring progress should be selected together with the targets and in coherence with the global process on indicators related to Agenda 2030 and other MEAs. Obtaining broad agreement on the overarching structure early in the process would provide more time for the full framework of targets, indicators and reporting to be ready for adoption at COP 15 and for Parties and stakeholders to develop their commitments.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be shaped in a way to ensure synergies, coherence, coordination and collaboration, complementarity and mutual reinforcement with the biodiversity related Conventions, MEAs and other major international processes. This synergy should be ensured both in the phase of development of the goals and targets, and in the phase of monitoring, review, and national implementation. Particular attention, in this regard, should be paid to ensure consistency between the 2030 Agenda and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The framework could foresee additional mechanisms to foster implementation. An important element would be, with reference to decision COP 13/1, a process for launching voluntary commitments to meet biodiversity challenges from Parties (individually or in coalition) and stakeholders, including the private sector, to strengthen implementation and achievement of targets. The process for the voluntary commitments could be launched at COP 14 and, if Parties and stakeholders are ready to do so, these

commitments could already be announced prior to or at CBD COP 15. If needed, notably on the basis of an assessment as to what extent they allow achieving the agreed goals and targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and coherence with the trajectory towards the 2030 objectives and the 2050 vision, they could be revised to show greater ambition on a regular basis. They could for example consist of targeted measures with regard to certain indirect or direct causes of biodiversity loss, or the achievement of quantitative conservation objectives. This process would complement, not replace, on-going procedures such as implementation through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), existing commitments and other means. The commitments would be integrated in the overall implementing and monitoring process of the CBD and would be accompanied by an open and transparent review process in order to hold Parties and stakeholders accountable. Reporting on implementation of the commitments should be integrated into National Reports, to support a review of implementation by COP 17. NBSAPs for implementing the CBD regime as a whole, remain the key implementation tool in line with Article 6(a) of the Convention.

The process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework could be accompanied by a Decision at COP 14 to request the Executive Secretary to make the process an important element in its communication strategy towards COP 15, build momentum, strengthen subsequent implementation, raise public awareness and scale up biodiversity concerns to the level of climate change. Mobilizing celebrity ambassadors from all continents willing to act as celebrity voices could contribute to strengthening public awareness.

In order to build momentum, discussions on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework should take place at upcoming high level meetings. UNGA or the UN General Secretary should host a biodiversity summit in 2020 at the level of Heads of State/Heads of Government in 2020 in order to raise the political visibility of biodiversity and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be highly participatory, inclusive and transparent, fostering widespread ownership. All relevant CBD stakeholders could be invited to support the process through concrete initiatives for its success (e.g. operational projects, contributions to the communication etc.). These initiatives altogether could build into a “Global Agenda for Biodiversity” also to serve as an umbrella for existing and potential coalitions and partnerships. This participatory process would involve inter alia Parties, UN Agencies, intergovernmental processes, academia and the scientific and technological community, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector, the civil society, think tanks and individuals. All should be invited to rally support for the process by highlighting the multiple contributions of nature to people, including health benefits.

The process should foresee the mobilization of resources (financial, human, technical and institutional) from all sources, including from the private sector, as well as the efficient and effective use of available resources. Resource mobilization should be built on the experiences from implementing all elements of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, and should be based on a thorough assessment of the financial needs and available resources so as to effectively address the potential financing gap. Funding agencies and the financial sector should be included in the process as early as possible.