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Lysaker, 17. september 2018

To CBD Executive Secretary, Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer

Dear Executive Secretary,

Responding to your notification of 16 July 2018 in which you invite views on the process towards a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we would like to inform you about a recent initiative taken to feed into this process: The Rethinking Biodiversity Governance Network.

We mainly consist of legal and political science academics. We believe that the complexity of reversing the negative trend for biodiversity requires more attention to our expertise as “governance scientists” and a little more out-of-the-box thinking than has been the case so far. Biodiversity mainstreaming and applying and ecosystem approach (and even more an ecosystems services approach) requires bringing together actors that have used to work very incoherently. This needs institutional and legal thinking and we aim to bring in more of that in the process to prepare the post-2020 framework. Among our aimed outputs are shorter papers for policy-makers on individual governance issues and a book as the collective effort to strengthen the academic basis in this field. Some of us like myself have a long experience with the CBD in different roles and functions.

Biodiversity governance, we understand in its broadest sense as the collective efforts of governments and society towards the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Governance is thus the sum of the many ways individuals and organizations, public and private, manage their common affairs. Achieving a halt of biodiversity loss requires fundamental transformations and thereby ambitious governance extending beyond traditional governmental steering through policies and central decision-making processes. Thus, the rethinking biodiversity governance idea is very much placed in the context of transformative change.

In a first phase, we have focused on broadening biodiversity governance in relation to the other Rio-conventions, the SDGs and the human rights agenda. At the SBSTTA21 and SBI-2 meetings we held side events on the role of non-state actors in biodiversity governance, on what governance lessons could be learned from the Paris Agreement and on the need to tear down the governance silos between the climate change and biodiversity regimes. We are now in the process of preparing a Governance Day during CBD COP 14 at the Rio Conventions Pavilion with UN Environment and other partners.

We will keep you informed about our activities and deliverables, and we would be happy to contribute to your activities in the continued process leading up to the post 2020 biodiversity framework.

Yours sincerely,

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