



Submission from Switzerland

Notification 2018-063: Updating the proposed preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting will consider a preparatory process for the development of a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

To this purpose, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, prepared a proposal for such a process for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) at its second meeting. The SBI, in its recommendation 2/19, requested the Executive Secretary to update, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting, the proposed preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, taking into account the views expressed by Parties during SBI-2, and further views submitted by Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant international organizations, civil society organizations, women's and youth organizations, private and financial sectors and other stakeholders by 15 August 2018.

Switzerland supports the views expressed by other Parties – in particular the submission by Canada on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand and Norway - that the process to develop the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should be:

- Party led
- Inclusive, allowing other stakeholders to provide input to the process
- Transparent, allowing all parties and stakeholders to understand the process
- Efficient, by using existing opportunities to engage and discuss the content
- Result oriented, building on the existing strategy, focusing on key issues that need high-level attention

To assure a successful process based on the above-mentioned principles the following elements seem to be key:

Roadmap

All parties and stakeholders have to be aware of the different stages that lead to the adoption of a new Global Biodiversity Framework at COP 15 in Beijing. The different events, where the discussion of elements of the future strategy will take place, have to be reflected in a timetable or a roadmap. Switzerland welcomes the idea of a two-phase approach where the first phase is allowing the gathering of views and a broad discussion among all relevant stakeholders. In the second phase the views should be consolidated and common ground on the content and the priorities of the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should be developed.

Synergies

During Phase 1, beside regional discussions, Switzerland strongly advocates also meetings allowing to integrate all biodiversity related MEAs in this process at an early stage. Reference is made to Recommendation SBI-2/9 § 12 where the secretariat is asked to organize such a meeting. The active engagement of all biodiversity related MEAs in the development of the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 has also to be ensured during the second phase of the process, dealing with specific content of the new framework.

Preparatory or Advisory Group

Switzerland is of the view that a party-led process needs a structure or body that is dedicated to the elaboration of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We support the creation of a Preparatory or an Advisory Group for the post-2020 framework.

In our view such a group should help – in cooperation with the Secretariat - to organize the process as well as discuss the content and contribute to the elaboration of the future framework.

Composition

If this Group discusses the content of the future framework we have to make sure that the membership is broad enough to allow regional groups of Parties to be fairly represented.

For this reason Switzerland favors a composition of up to ten members per regional group.

Furthermore the Preparatory or Advisory Group should also comprise representatives of IPBES and other groups of stakeholders (IPLCs, NGO's including women and youths organizations and the private sector).

Finally, we underline once again the importance of integrating the other biodiversity related global MEAs to the process of elaborating the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We would suggest that two representatives of each biodiversity related MEA to be invited to take part in the Preparatory or Advisory Group.

Meetings

Switzerland suggests that the Preparatory or Advisory Group meets in general for three days prior to / back-to-back with scheduled meetings (reflected in the Roadmap, see also <https://post2020.unep-wcmc.org/>). This solution is cost-efficient but allows the Advisory Group to have enough time for a substantial discussion on the elements of the future Global Biodiversity Framework.

Feedback

The Preparatory or Advisory Group reports back to the Parties during every meeting of CBD's subsidiary bodies. In between it can produce written reports or draft text for elements of a future Global Biodiversity Framework.

Political momentum

The incoming presidency hosting COP 15 should be associated to the work of the Preparatory or Advisory Group on a high level.

Commitments

Parties to the convention will have to update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to the new framework. Switzerland favors an assessment of these commitments and a regular review of the actions undertaken by parties to implement their NBSAPs.

Non-State actors (regions, cities, private sector, civil society organizations) could be invited to make voluntary pledges of concrete actions contributing to the implementation of the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The secretariat could run an internet based platform with information on these initiatives in order to inspire other potential actors (comparable to www.climateaction.unfccc.int). In order to guarantee the high quality of these "actions for life", an assessment of these initiatives, based on agreed indicators, as well as of the concrete result of these pledges is needed.