

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Cui Shuhong of China on the
Occasion of the Virtual High Level Discussion on the
International Day for Biological Diversity**

May 22, 2020



Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

On behalf of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, I thank the government of Norway for organizing this special virtual high level event and have the great honor to make an intervention in our capacity of the incoming presidency of COP 15 of the CBD. China has just held a publicity campaign for the International Day for Biological Diversity

The event today is much needed as it focuses on discussion and exchange of views on boosting confidence globally to protect biodiversity. Just now, many delegates shared their wonderful insights. The excellent work done by all of you has laid a good foundation for the convening of the COP 15 and the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

As the foundation for survival and development of humankind, biodiversity is currently facing severe challenges. Loss of species and destruction of habitats have not been effectively curbed. China is willing to work with countries around the world to make unremitting efforts in tackling these challenges. Guided by Xi Jinping's thought on ecological civilization, we adhere to the principle of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, the concept of respecting, accommodating to and protecting nature, the principle of advocating harmonious coexistence between human and nature, and the conviction that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets. Great efforts have been made to promote the building of ecological civilization and a community of shared life, and remarkable progress has been achieved. China has met the Aichi Biodiversity Target in terms of the percentage of terrestrial protected areas ahead of schedule, with protected areas of all types covering more than 170 million hectares, which accounts for 18% of the whole land territory. Over 25% of our land territory have been preliminarily marked as ecological conservation red-line areas, covering habitats of important species and key areas for biodiversity. The amount of carbon absorbed in these areas accounts for nearly 45% of the

national total.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite all the critical challenges, we are moving towards the right direction. In 2018, Egypt, China and the CBD Secretariat launched the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, which calls on all stakeholders to submit actions and commitments. China and France issued Beijing Call for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change to strengthen cooperation on these two issues. Up to now, negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework have been progressing well. Bearing in mind the three objectives of the Convention, Parties are getting closer to a set of goals and targets that are reasonable and acceptable to all. We need to carry on with this work, identify innovative mechanisms for implementation and financing, so as to provide concrete and reliable support to global biodiversity actions in the next decade.

As the host country of the COP 15, China will fulfill its obligations, and work with the international community to build a shared future for all life on earth, where human and nature co-exist in harmony. I believe that in the near future, we will be able to gather together physically and witness a successful and fruitful COP, as a result of our joint efforts in making it yet

another milestone in the history of the Convention.

Thank you!