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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject:	UN Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) (Yerevan, Armenia, 19 – 30 October 2026): a) Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP17) b) Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP12) c) Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (COP-MOP6) - Council conclusions

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council conclusions on the abovementioned subject, as approved by the Council at its 4200th meeting held on 12 October 2026.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

Preparation of the Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP17)

**Preparation of the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP12)**

**Preparation of the Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (COP-MOP6)**

(Yerevan, Armenia 19 – 30 October 2026)

- Council conclusions -

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING its conclusions on:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Preparation of the Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the CBD; Preparation of the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP11); Preparation of the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (COP-MOP5) (Cali, Colombia, 21 October – 1 November 2024)¹;

Biodiversity: the need for urgent action²;

Preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)³;

¹ ST 14480/24.

² ST 12210/20.

³ ST 15272/19 + COR 1.

EU energy and climate diplomacy⁴;

A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy⁵;

Indigenous Peoples⁶;

UNDERLINING that the loss of biodiversity continues to be an existential global threat to humanity, RECOGNISING that biodiversity, food, water, health and climate change are interconnected and that achievement of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) requires holistic, integrative and complementary action, within and across sectors, consistent with a nexus approach in order to enhance synergies and reduce trade-offs and STRESSING the need for transformative change to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss;

RECOGNISING the fundamental importance of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity for health, wellbeing, food security, nutrition, jobs and sustainable livelihoods as well as for long-term economic and social stability;

ACKNOWLEDGING that healthy ecosystems protect against natural hazards and disasters and contribute to national security and that protecting, restoring and sustainably using biodiversity can help to safeguard national and economic security and enhance resilience;

DEEPLY ALARMED about the gravity and urgency arising from the interdependent global crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, ecosystem, land, water and ocean degradation, including deforestation, desertification and drought, as well as extreme wildfires, heatwaves and rising sea temperatures; AFFIRMS its commitment to addressing these interconnected crises in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent way that comprises mutually beneficial strategies with strong social and environmental safeguards;

⁴ ST 8417/26.

⁵ ST 7397/26.

⁶ ST 8814/17.

WELCOMING the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the KMGBF as well as the considerable number of updated or revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and targets aligned with the KMGBF since its adoption and the large number of seventh national reports submitted by the Parties to the Convention, and REITERATING the urgent need for Parties that have not yet done so to finalise and submit their NBSAPs and seventh national reports as soon as possible;

ACKNOWLEDGING Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on Nature Restoration, under which National Restoration Plans and implementation processes are being developed as an important contribution of the EU and its Member States to the implementation of the KMGBF;

ACKNOWLEDGING the progress in mobilising financial resources from all sources while UNDERLINING that it is still uncertain whether the 2025 milestone for Target 19 was achieved;

RECOGNISING the importance of mobilizing actions of all Parties and non-state actors, including through partnerships, coalitions and initiatives, to mainstream biodiversity and accelerate implementation of the KMGBF and WELCOMING the commitments by non-state actors as contributions towards implementation of the KMGBF;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that create enabling environments for the alignment of business and financial sectors with the targets of the KMGBF, and for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity and its ecosystem services;

REAFFIRMING our shared commitment to effective multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core, and RECALLING the central role of the KMGBF as a system-wide, UN-wide, whole-of-society and whole-of-government framework;

REAFFIRMING that a human-rights based approach, equity and gender equality are central for the implementation of the KMGBF;

REAFFIRMING the importance of strengthening synergies and cooperation at all levels among the Rio Conventions and with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and STRESSING the need for accelerated actions within and across all sectors, notably through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, applying the ecosystem approach of the Convention, that contribute to the goals of the Paris Agreement;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to a robust and effective Global Review of collective progress in implementation of the KMGBF that leads to renewed political momentum and accelerated implementation actions towards achieving the KMGBF targets for 2030;

WELCOMING the ambition of the Republic of Armenia to raise the political visibility of COP17, including through the *Yerevan Pathway for the Acceleration of Implementation of the KMGBF* and to ensure that COP17 delivers a successful Global Review, towards the accelerated implementation of the KMGBF and its Goals and Targets and FURTHER WELCOMING the emphasis of the Republic of Armenia on inclusive participation and ambitious and action-oriented outcomes for the Global Review and COP17;

UNDERLINES that for the purpose of these Council conclusions, the terminology of ‘Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ is applied without prejudice to the continued use in CBD documents of the agreed terminology contained in CBD COP Decision XII/12, pending future negotiations on this issue;

REITERATES the resolute condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a manifest violation of international law, including the UN Charter. REITERATES strong concerns regarding the situation in the Middle East as expressed by the European Council in its conclusions from June 2026.

CHAPTER I – CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. REAFFIRMS its commitment to fully implement the KMGBF;
2. WELCOMES the unprecedented level of engagement generated by the KMGBF and the commitment demonstrated by Parties and stakeholders towards its implementation, as highlighted in the Global Report and demonstrated by the considerable number of national reports and NBSAPs submitted, whilst STRESSING the need for improvements in the quality and completeness of reporting to further facilitate the assessment of progress towards the KMGBF's goals and targets;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES that progress in implementation of the KMGBF has been achieved, but ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES that it will not be possible to meet the 2030 targets and mission or the 2050 goals without accelerated actions and efforts and urgently addressing the remaining barriers and gaps;
4. RECOGNISES the urgent need to accelerate and strengthen implementation of the KMGBF, and STRESSES the importance of increased political will and ambition to accelerate implementation and address gaps in order to meet the 2030 targets and 2050 goals in the time remaining and achieve the three objectives of the Convention;
5. ACKNOWLEDGES the continued importance of further operationalisation and use of the monitoring framework of the KMGBF and UNDERLINES that monitoring and reporting arrangements should make use of existing information and processes, where possible, to avoid duplication and minimise additional administrative and financial burdens on Parties;

6. CALLS for increased action towards mainstreaming biodiversity within and across all levels of government and society, policies and sectors and STRESSES the vital role of the private sector in this regard;
7. WELCOMES the open spirit and constructive nature of the Kunming Dialogue, including as regards potential follow-up actions to the Global Review;
8. STRESSES the importance of comprehensive, action-oriented messages for accelerating implementation of the KMGBF, in particular for targets where progress is least advanced;
9. ACKNOWLEDGES that enhanced international cooperation, improved actions and efforts and strengthened means of implementation are important for the full and effective implementation of the KMGBF;
10. STRESSES, as highlighted in the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the KMGBF, the need to strengthen measures that address direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, including drivers that continue to undermine progress towards implementation of the KMGBF, and that national targets globally do not yet adequately address such drivers and therefore greater policy coherence, taking into account national circumstances, and the scaling up of transformative actions are necessary;
11. STRESSES the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach for the implementation of the KMGBF;
12. UNDERLINES that the full and effective participation of non-state actors, including in particular Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, recognizing their respective roles, is crucial for the full and effective implementation of the KMGBF;

13. EMPHASISES the importance of gender equality and gender-responsive implementation of the KMGBF, and of ensuring an inclusive and human rights-based approach and UNDERLINES the need to integrate gender perspectives across biodiversity policies, strategies, plans, actions, programmes and finance arrangements at all levels and to reduce inequalities and promote the equitable and full and effective participation and representation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders in biodiversity-related policy and decision-making processes;
14. RECOGNISES the key tools that already exist at national, regional and international levels to support implementation, including in particular NBSAPs and STRESSES that National Biodiversity Finance Plans (NBFs) or similar instruments, existing CBD programmes of work as well as other initiatives contribute to the implementation of the KMGBF and the Convention and STRESSES that updating them and strengthening their implementation remains an important contribution to the implementation of the KMGBF and the CBD;
15. EMPHASISES the role and importance of a solid scientific evidence base for policy-making based on the best available science, together with the valuable contribution of traditional knowledge as the foundations for ambition and effective implementation and CALLS FOR further strengthening collaboration between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the CBD as well as greater uptake of findings of IPBES to support the implementation of the KMGBF;
16. EMPHASISES the need for further cooperation with other science-policy platforms including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution;
17. STRESSES the need for a clear and coherent follow up process to the first Global review of Implementation to ensure continuity with the second Global Review of Implementation, as well as clear urgent and coherent actions to rapidly accelerate the implementation of the KMGBF in the time remaining;

18. WELCOMES the establishment of the regional and sub-regional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and CALLS for their full operationalisation to accelerate support to the implementation of the KMGBF;
19. CALLS for closer and enhanced cooperation and strengthening of synergies among the three Rio Conventions, as well as with other biodiversity related MEAs, within their respective mandates, through coherent implementation of the KMGBF, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 2018-2030 Strategic Framework, including by strengthening the role and function of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Biodiversity Liaison Group, with a view to further enhance synergies and increase collaboration at national level, especially in the development, revision and implementation of relevant targets, strategies and action plans as well as monitoring and reporting;
20. FURTHER UNDERLINES the importance of strengthening integrated approaches addressing the interlinkages between biodiversity, climate, pollution, water and land degradation, including through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, as well as in a transboundary context;
21. ALSO CALLS for reinforcement of the ongoing efforts of Parties, the governing bodies and Secretariats of the other Rio Conventions, biodiversity-related conventions, chemicals and waste related conventions and other relevant MEAs, UN entities, other relevant organisations and stakeholders including financial institutions and initiatives relevant to thematic sectors to enhance cooperation in the context of the KMGBF and other relevant frameworks;

Digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI)

22. RECALLING CBD COP Decisions 15/9 and 16/2, ACKNOWLEDGES that the multilateral mechanism for benefit sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, including its Cali Fund, is an innovative tool to promote benefit sharing and further mobilise resources for biodiversity, and STRESSES the need to effectively implement it while working towards providing enhanced legal certainty and clarity and creating a level playing field;
23. NOTES that under Decision 16/2 only developing countries and Indigenous Peoples and local communities are eligible to access the Cali Fund, HIGHLIGHTS however that under the Convention, benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources is possible for all Parties based on the principle that they are all providers and users of genetic resources and UNDERSCORES the need for further work in this regard, when appropriate;
24. UNDERLINES the importance of maintaining and improving open access to DSI, which is essential for scientific research and innovation and REAFFIRMS that the Multilateral Mechanism should not require tracking and tracing;
25. ACKNOWLEDGES that public research and academic institutions engage actively in sharing non-monetary benefits through public research on the use of DSI and related capacity building and development and ENCOURAGES relevant initiatives to continue this work;
26. ENCOURAGES collaboration with entities operating databases to support the implementation of the multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources;

27. UNDERLINES that further development of operational modalities under the Multilateral Mechanism, including potential new modalities for contributions, should be in line with the criteria set out in paragraph 9 of Decision 15/9, evidence-based and should not prejudice the outcome of the first review of effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, at COP18;
28. FURTHER UNDERLINES the importance of avoiding potential stacking of obligations across access and benefit sharing regimes and EMPHASISING the need to avoid unnecessary complexity and bureaucratic burden;
29. NOTES with concern the low number of contributions to the Cali Fund, RECOGNISES the need to raise awareness across sectors on the Cali Fund, UNDERLINES the importance of contributions by the private sector and ENCOURAGES private sector entities worldwide that benefit from the use of DSI on genetic resources to contribute to the Cali Fund and to share non-monetary benefits; WELCOMES public, private and multilateral partnerships and initiatives across sectors and platforms in that regard as well as to build capacity and support for the full operationalisation of the Cali Fund;

Resource mobilisation

30. RECALLS the roadmap set out in CBD COP Decision 16/34 and REAFFIRMS its commitment to advance coherently on both tracks;
31. REITERATES its commitment to mobilising resources from all sources; CALLS ON all countries in a position to do so to contribute to international biodiversity finance, consistent with national circumstances and reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of their respective capabilities, and URGES stakeholders, including the private and financial sectors to step up their contribution to the implementation of the KMGBF and to align their financial flows with the KMGBF;

32. UNDERLINES that the EU and its Member States together are by far the biggest providers of biodiversity-related Official Development Assistance worldwide;
33. HIGHLIGHTS the positive trend in international biodiversity financing reported by OECD, with biodiversity specific financing reaching 18.9bn USD and biodiversity-related financing reaching 34.2bn USD in 2024;
34. ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of transparency, consistency and methodological clarity in reporting international biodiversity finance;
35. AFFIRMS the continued importance of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) as the financial mechanism of the Convention WELCOMES the pledges made at the 9th replenishment of the GEF, and outcomes on targets for least-developed countries and small island developing states, Indigenous Peoples and local communities as well as private sector mobilisation, and ENCOURAGES current and potential contributors to finalise their contributions for GEF-9 in a timely and ambitious manner following the leadership shown by EU Member States;
36. RECOGNISES the successful programming of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) and CALLS FOR further pledges to the GBFF from all sources;
37. RECOGNISES that public international biodiversity finance is currently provided and mobilised by a limited number of countries, AFFIRMS the need to consider pathways for systematically broadening the contribution base and increasing the number of contributors for biodiversity finance in line with the evolution of national circumstances and capabilities over time as well as economic realities, on a voluntary and consensual basis, and for example, through possible indicative objective criteria, including through periodic review and, if necessary, amendment, of the list established pursuant to Article 20.2 of the Convention and in accordance with that Article; NOTES that Parties should be duly consulted in this regard;

38. HIGHLIGHTS the important role of the private sector and stakeholders as well as exploration of potential voluntary and regulatory innovative approaches such as, in accordance with national circumstances, amongst others, high-integrity nature credits and circular economy approaches in mobilising resources from all sources;
39. UNDERLINES the importance of advancing the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments, in particular by supporting the implementation of finance solutions that unlock their potential for domestic resource mobilisation; and RECOGNISES the potential value of cross-sectoral national platforms for strengthening the mobilisation of domestic and international public and private financial flows and accelerating implementation of the goals and targets of the KMGBF;
40. RECOGNISES that all businesses depend on and impact biodiversity; STRESSES the importance of creating an enabling environment for transformative change, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances, including establishing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks for businesses to contribute to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and WELCOMES the findings of the IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment;
41. UNDERLINES the urgent need to accelerate identification of incentives and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful for biodiversity in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, starting with the most harmful incentives, and to scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in line with Target 18 of the KMGBF;

Issues related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities

42. REAFFIRMS the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;⁷
43. WELCOMES the establishment of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8J and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J) by COP16 and STRESSES the need for a modus operandi with inclusive participation procedures that adequately reflects the critical importance of ensuring meaningful as well as the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in SB8J;
44. ACKNOWLEDGES the critical and crucial role and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and guardians of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; EMPHASISES the importance of respecting international human rights law and instruments;
45. STRESSES the need for full and effective implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the CBD related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities to 2030, including through the full, effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in relevant decision-making processes;

⁷ UNGA Resolution 61/295.

Synthetic Biology

46. RECOGNISES the rapid advancement of applications of synthetic biology as well as the potential positive and negative effects in relation to the three objectives of the Convention and the implementation of the KMGBF and the need for adequate monitoring and assessment including in the area of artificial intelligence and computational biology in the context of the Convention, and SUGGESTS to further address the recent technological developments in synthetic biology;
47. WELCOMES the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology and the draft thematic action plan to support capacity building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology, underpinned by the precautionary approach as contained in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

48. STRESSES that, overall, marine and coastal biodiversity has not been adequately reflected in NBSAPs and UNDERLINES the need to strengthen its integration into national biodiversity planning and implementation, including by promoting policy coherence across relevant sectors and scaling up transformative actions for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of marine biodiversity;

49. STRESSES the importance of continuing efforts to identify and describe areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and of adopting the voluntary guidelines on peer-review processes for EBSAs and other relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria in order to ensure that the EBSA process continues to provide a valuable scientific and technical contribution to the implementation of the KMGBF, other international instruments, frameworks, and competent organisations, and to the future implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement);
50. UNDERLINES that the EBSA process should fully respect the sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction of coastal states as provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and RECALLS the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 80/110 of 9 December 2025 reaffirming that UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the ocean and seas must be carried out;
51. WELCOMES the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement, noting the many shared objectives with the Convention; EMPHASISES the critical contributions and synergies that the future implementation of the BBNJ Agreement can achieve and CALLS FOR effective and efficient cooperation and collaboration between the CBD and the BBNJ Agreement and relevant science policy platforms;
52. EMPHASISES the need to build on the outcomes of the expert workshop held in Bergen, Norway, from 2-5 December 2025, on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction in advancing work under the Convention and enhancing cooperation, collaboration or synergies with the BBNJ Agreement;

53. STRESSES the importance of accelerating progress towards the effective conservation and management of at least 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030 under Target 3 of the KMGBF, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

Other matters related to COP17

54. STRESSES the need to increase efficiency and effectiveness of, and prioritisation within, the processes in the CBD, including through a Party-driven process;
55. STRESSES the need to adopt a new Multiyear Programme of Work focused on accelerated and facilitated action on the ground by Parties while ensuring balanced support for the implementation of all three objectives of the Convention and the KMGBF, full implementation of existing CBD tools and programmes and avoiding duplication of effort;
56. FURTHER STRESSES the need to consider the outcomes of the functional review to improve the effectiveness of the Secretariat in particular for servicing meetings and facilitating implementation of the KMGBF;

CHAPTER II – CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

57. WELCOMES the high numbers of Fifth National Reports that have been submitted on time, EMPHASISES the need for full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by strengthening national biosafety frameworks, adopting robust science-based risk assessment and risk management procedures, enhancing capacity-building and technical support utilizing the Biosafety Clearing-House for information sharing and promoting public awareness and stakeholder engagement;
58. REITERATES that the ability to detect and identify living modified organisms is an important element in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and therefore SUPPORTS complementing and updating future editions of the Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety where added value may be provided;

59. WELCOMES the compiling of information on national legislation, regulations and guidance on new developments in modern biotechnology;
60. WELCOMES the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment including the outcomes of the AHTEG on application of the criteria for identification and prioritization of specific issues of risk assessment and SUPPORTS the development of further voluntary guidance materials building upon the prioritised list of topics identified by the AHTEG, to respond to broadly shared Parties' needs and EMPHASISES the need for a realistic work plan for all involved actors, including a possible AHTEG;
61. REITERATES the importance of the precautionary approach as contained in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of a case-by-case science-based environmental risk assessment in decisions related to living modified organisms;

CHAPTER III – NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

62. UNDERLINES the importance of taking into account the key findings and messages of the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol for implementing the Protocol, and the KMGBF, particularly in ensuring appropriate access to genetic resources and that benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, are shared fairly and equitably, thereby contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
63. EMPHASISES the need for Parties to simplify and streamline legal, administrative, and policy measures to facilitate access to genetic resources and ensure that the benefits arising from their utilization are shared in a fair and equitable manner, in accordance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol and other relevant international access and benefit sharing instruments.