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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Subject: 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16) (Cali, Columbia, 21 October – 1 November 2024): “World Coalition for Peace with Nature: A Call for Life” and Declaration of the “World Coalition for Peace with Nature”
- Request by the Commission for authorisation to sign a Non-Binding Instrument (NBI)

1. In the context of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16), which will take place in Cali, Columbia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, at the High-level Segment, starting on 29 October 2024, the COP Presidency will call on all Parties to join the World Coalition for Peace with Nature and endorse its Declaration.
2. In accordance with the Arrangements on Non-Binding Instruments (NBI) agreed by the Council, the Commission and the EEAS¹ the World Coalition for Peace with Nature and its Declaration constitute a non-binding instrument that contains political commitments,

¹ ST 15367/17.

3. On 26 September 2024, the Council authorised the Commission to enter into negotiations to join the Coalition for Peace with Nature and endorse its Declaration.² On 4 October 2024, the Commission requested the Council's authorisation to join the Coalition for Peace with Nature and endorse its Declaration,³ thereby kick starting the second step of the procedure foreseen in the Arrangements. On 25 October 2024, the COP Presidency distributed a newly revised version of the Declaration, which can be found in the Annex to this Note.

 4. In view of the urgency, the Presidency proposes to approve by written procedure the authorisation to the Commission to sign, on behalf of the EU, this non-binding instrument. The usual Communication (CM) will be issued through the Delegates Portal to start the written procedure.
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² ST 13649/24.

³ ST 14250/24.



**DECLARATION OF THE WORLD COALITION FOR PEACE WITH
NATURE: A CALL FOR LIFE**

The World Coalition for Peace with Nature, living well in balance and in Harmony with Mother Earth is a call for action to enhance national and international efforts and commitments towards achieving a balanced and harmonious relationship with nature to ensure greater sustainability, by protecting nature, and the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of our global biodiversity.

Aware that the planet is facing a critical juncture in which humanity's global ecological footprint exceeds Earth's biological capacity, and that environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity threaten humanity and the health of our ecosystems and society's collective social, economic, and political stability:

1. *Recognizing* that a harmonious and peaceful relationship between human beings and nature is fundamental for the sustainability of our planet and its living and non-living resources, for the well-being and enjoyment of present and future generations, and for conserving the intrinsic value of nature, hence making it imperative to make peace with nature and actively work towards conserving and restoring biodiversity.

2. *Recognizing* the need to promote greater awareness and strengthen efforts at local, subnational, national, regional and global levels in matters of human rights, peace among peoples, sustainability, social and environmental justice, traditional knowledge, bio-cultural issues and international cooperation.

3. *Emphasizing* that halting and reversing biodiversity loss, restoring the health and integrity of ecosystems, as well as their conservation, restoration and sustainable use, requires the collective and sustained action of States, international organizations, civil society, private sector and all relevant right holders and stakeholders.

4. *Reaffirming* that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right. We acknowledge that respecting this right requires the collaboration and shared responsibility of all sectors of society.

5. *Reaffirming* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which recognizes, among other things, that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.

6. *Recognizing* that the ongoing and interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution and degradation of land and seas have adversely affected multiple human rights and increased inequality and poverty in aspects such as the right to life, health, water, sanitation, food, clothing and housing, development, education, peaceful assembly, cultural rights, as well as the right to live in a healthy, clean and sustainable environment.

7. *Recognizing* that One Health approach is based on the understanding of the inseparable relation between healthy ecosystems and people's health and thus creates sustainable and holistic solutions.

8. *Highlighting* that the interconnections between the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification should always be considered, to ensure more efficient and effective actions and measures to meet their principles and achieve their goals, in line with respective mandates.

9. *Recognizing* that the adverse effects of biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and pollution disproportionately impact children, women, girls, and adolescents and youth; people living in poverty, minorities, older people; racially and ethnically marginalized groups; Indigenous Peoples, People of African Descent and local communities; people with disabilities, migrants and internally displaced people, LGBTI and other groups in vulnerable situations.

10. *Recognizing* that all women, girls and youth in diverse situations and conditions play a fundamental role as agents of change in favor of sustainable development and for peace and nature priorities.

11. *Acknowledging* that the full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation of women, and meaningful inclusion of youth in addressing the global environmental challenges is essential to achieving sustainable development and for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

12. *Recognizing that* the knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples, People of African Descent, peasants, farmers and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, are essential for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and also recognizing the importance of promoting their wide application with the approval and involvement of their holders; as well as the need to prompt, fairly and equitably share the benefits arising from the use of such traditional knowledge, innovations and practices associated with genetic resources.

13. *Considering* that education for sustainable development should be at the center of government and educational agendas worldwide to raise awareness of the urgent need to act and confront biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and pollution, and to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns. In this context, we underline the key role of academia and scientific research in contributing to tackling these crises.

14. *Recalling* the negative impact of deforestation and forest degradation on biodiversity, and the need to halt and reverse it.

15. *Recognizing* that there can be no sustainable development without peace, nor peace without sustainable development.

16. *Recognizing* the link between environmental protection and the promotion and building of peace. Achieving peace with nature requires making peace between peoples, respecting international law and focusing efforts on the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of life on our planet.

17. *Reiterating* the importance of due respect for and observance of international law as the crucial barrier against actions that threaten the lives of human beings and nature itself.

Therefore,

18. We call to change the relationship between humans and nature to address environmental challenges in a comprehensive manner, and to make peace with nature.

19. We reaffirm the importance of the Vision, Mission, Goals and Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and of its swift, full and effective implementation, which should follow a human rights-based approach.

20. We call for sustainability to always be accompanied by social and environmental justice, poverty eradication, increased equity, inclusive and informed environmental governance; ensuring full, equitable, inclusive and effective participation in decision-making processes of affected communities.

21. We call for the development of public policies to strengthen institutional and human capital, governance, intercultural dialogue, technical capabilities, and adequate finance to achieve a balanced and harmonious relationship with nature.

22. We commit to promoting the consolidation, strengthening, and creation of partnerships among countries, regions, sectors and peoples, as well as to enhance international cooperation and solidarity, increasing assistance to developing countries for biodiversity, including financial, technology transfer and capacity building.

23. We commit to make efforts to mobilize the whole of government and the whole of society, empowering local action, as from this source comes the power of this coalition, with the potential to be reached and mobilize billions to spark collective action for change.

These efforts are fundamental to reverse environmental deterioration and achieve peace with nature, living well in balance and in harmony with Mother Earth.

Santiago de Cali, Colombia, 29 October|2024
