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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Convention on Biological Diversity: 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Part 1)
(Kunming/hybrid, 11-15 October 2021)
- Statements by the EU and its Member States

Delegations will find in the [Annex](#), for information purposes, a compilation of agreed statements as delivered at the abovementioned meeting on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Convention on Biological Diversity: 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Part 1)

(Kunming/hybrid, 11-15 October 2021)

- Statements by the EU and its Member States -

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

Your Excellency,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to address this plenary on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We express our deepest appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting the 2021 UN Biodiversity Conference. This opening of the COP15 is important for keeping the momentum and accelerating the agreement on an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The worldwide deterioration of biodiversity is severe and it is urgent to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and ensure a net gain by 2030. Recent reports by relevant intergovernmental panels have demonstrated that biodiversity and climate change are interdependent and that the window for humanity to effectively avoid the collapse of our Earth's life support system is closing quickly. The current pandemic reminds us of the importance to support a One Health approach to avoid or reduce risks to humans, wild and domesticated species, and ecosystems health. Our global actions are not sufficient. We need fast and transformative change across governments, all economic sectors and the whole society.

To achieve the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature and the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework together with effective implementation mechanisms must be adopted in spring 2022.

Currently, an estimated 15% of the world's land and 7% of the ocean are protected. There is a wealth of scientific data documenting the need to protect and conserve at least 30% of each the global land and sea areas by 2030, a target which the EU and its Member States strongly support.

Strong actions to substantially reduce the negative impact of human activities on the ocean, and protect marine and coastal biodiversity, including deep-sea, are essential.

It is crucial to minimise impacts on biodiversity and natural resources by addressing the direct drivers of biodiversity loss - land and sea-use change, natural resource use and exploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species -, as well as the indirect drivers. We need to ensure that production and consumption along with harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable and respecting the planet's carrying capacity. Our actions must be concrete and based on a whole-of-society and whole of government approach. Everybody needs to be on board to achieve urgently needed transformative change. Actions taken have to be linked to regional and local levels.

Effective mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across government, business, the financial sector, and society with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, girls, youth and other stakeholders is essential for achieving the biodiversity objectives, the SDGs and for contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Adequate resources from all sources, private and public, national and international, are needed to implement the framework. Financial resources from all sources will need to be increased overall, inter alia by eliminating or redirecting incentives harmful for biodiversity and scaling up positive ones and by aligning all financial flows in support of the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity. EU and its Member States are committed to jointly continue our efforts to further increase its external funding for biodiversity, in particular for the most vulnerable countries.

The synergies between biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and climate change mitigation and adaptation should be encouraged and strengthened. At the same time, we need to ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and optimise co-benefits. In this regard, we see Nature-based Solutions as a key application to strengthening resilience and reducing ecosystems' vulnerability as well as contributing to reach the SDGs.

We understand the importance that many parties attach to further improving access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilisation and of advancing towards solution on digital sequence information.

Significantly reinforced mechanisms for implementation, including through updating NBSAPs, planning, monitoring, reporting, review of progress and ambition and ratcheting up, are a priority and should be adequately reflected in the GBF.

Finally, we are convinced that this meeting will help accelerate the work needed for successful negotiations leading to the adoption of the ambitious and transformative global biodiversity framework. We remain fully committed to increasing actions and making every effort to put nature on the path to recovery. We also call on other Parties to do so!

Thank you!

High-level segment – closing statement

Delivered by Commissioner Sinkevičius in the name of the European Union

Dear Mr President,

I have the honour to address this plenary on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We express our deepest appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting this high-level segment and our sincere thanks to Egypt for effectively presiding the COP during the past three years. The interventions and discussions demonstrate strong engagement to come to an agreement and adopt an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework next year. We welcome the Kunming Declaration and see it as a good starting point for further negotiations toward an ambitious framework.

Science is very clear on the need for high ambition followed by strong actions. We need to act urgently to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, put nature on a path to recovery and ensure a net gain by 2030. We need fast and transformative change, ensure sustainable use of biodiversity, reduce our ecological footprint and effectively mainstream biodiversity within and across government, business, the financial sector, and society to achieve our biodiversity objectives, but also the Sustainable Development Goals, poverty eradication and the Paris Agreement.

The World failed on implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and we must not fail again. We need effective implementation mechanisms and a much stronger process for monitoring, reporting, review and ratcheting up. Therefore, at COP15 we need to adopt an effective monitoring framework.

The EU and its Member States strongly support ambitious goals, milestones and targets, which should be measurable, where feasible. This includes a global target to protect and conserve at least 30% of the land and of the ocean globally by 2030.

We want to flag the urgent need for strong actions to protect marine and coastal biodiversity, including the open ocean and the deep-sea, taking account of the oceans and climate nexus.

Recognising their vital contribution, we need the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in accordance with UNDRIP and international human rights law, and local communities, women, girls, youth and other stakeholders. Respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights is essential.

Adequate resources from all sources and reinforced efficiency in the use of existing resources are needed to implement the framework in a timely manner. This must go together with eliminating or redirecting incentives and subsidies harmful for biodiversity and scaling up positive ones as well as aligning all financial flows in support of biodiversity. The EU and its Member States are committed to jointly continue our efforts to further increase our external funding for biodiversity.

We underline the importance of scaling up the implementation of Nature-based solutions delivering multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate and people.

We understand the importance of further improving both the access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilisation. We stand ready to contribute to building a common understanding on the issue of digital sequence information and its linkages to ABS as a basis for identifying an innovative and constructive solution, which also guarantees that science, research and innovation can continue to bring full benefits that also support the implementation of the other objectives of the CBD.

Ensuring policy coherence, establishing partnerships and promoting synergies on all levels are essential for successfully developing and implementing the GBF.

Finally, we remain strongly committed and will be happy to work with all of you in view of a successful 2nd part of the COP15 next year that matches the level of ambition required to save our planet while meeting its peoples' needs. I am looking forward to meeting you in person at the resumed session of COP 15.