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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Resumed session of the UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 16.2 / Cartagena MOP 11.2 / Nagoya MOP 5.2) Rome, Italy, 25-27 February 2025 - Statements by the EU and its Member States

Delegations will find in the Annex, for information, a compilation of statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States at the abovementioned meeting.

**Outcome of the Resumed UN Biodiversity Conference
(CBD COP 16.2 / Cartagena MOP 11.2 / Nagoya MOP 5.2)**

Rome, Italy, 25-27 February 2025

– Statements by the EU and its Member States –

Agenda item 11 – Resource Mobilisation

I'm speaking on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States. We're here to build on the momentum created in Cali. We made a lot of progress on important issues, but we ran out of time to complete the work. We're all here to complete that work.

Already in Cali, the EU and its Member States clearly stated their willingness to be part of a broad and open-ended process to develop a comprehensive finance solution to close the biodiversity finance gap. This process should prepare the ground for consideration and possible decisions by the 18th and 19th meeting of the COP. This process however has to be structured in a way that it doesn't prejudge its outcome before it has even started.

We welcome the efforts by the COP President to identify a possible middle ground. The informal consultations ahead of the resumed session have been very fruitful in providing additional clarity on different perspectives. The reflections note subsequently shared by the President of the COP has been very valuable in this regard and provides a good basis for discussions. In particular the original version of the reflection note contained many of the elements that need to be investigated in view of the COP taking the relevant decision. The most important elements in our view are to ensure a consideration of all possible instruments, initiatives and tools, encompassing domestic resource mobilization, reform and elimination of harmful subsidies and leveraging of private finance; a recognition of the central role of the existing instruments and in particular the integrity of the GEF; and the need to broaden the contributor base, as well as the further investigation of contributions of initiatives and instruments involving private actors.

We appreciate the efforts by the President to translate this welcome vision in textual suggestions for paragraph 19 until 25 as contained in the revised version of the reflection note. While we recognize that the annex to the revised INF document contains many of the elements important to us, we are not convinced it fully translates the vision of the original reflection note in a way. In particular, we would like to point out that the process foreseen is too narrow in scope; it's overly complicated and it puts too much burden on COP17. The agenda of COP17 agenda is already extremely heavy with the general review of the implementation of the GBF as well as the review of the SRM. It also takes place in less than 2 years which leaves little time to undertake all the work foreseen in the draft. However, the review of the implementation of the SRM will provide essential input to the intersessional process that we're ready to start with the decision we're currently discussing, but mainly in view of the further discussions at COP 18 and 19.

In this spirit the EU and its Member States are ready to engage constructively in the discussion on the open paragraphs, starting from the text elements contained in the INF document.

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Thank you, Madam President. I'm speaking on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

We welcome the efforts by the COP President to identify a possible middle ground. The informal consultations during the resumed session have been very fruitful and as we said yesterday the new proposals shared by the President of the COP has been very valuable in this regard and provides a good basis for discussions. As stated yesterday, the most important elements in our view are to ensure a consideration of all possible instruments, initiatives and tools, encompassing domestic resource mobilization, reform and elimination of harmful subsidies and leveraging of private finance; a recognition of the central role of the existing instruments and in particular the integrity of the GEF; and the need to broaden the contributor base, as well as the further investigation of contributions of initiatives and instruments involving private actors.

The new text by the President contains many good elements, but still needs to be further improved. We are cautiously positive about the proposal that the BRICS made this morning, we however need more time to properly reflect on it.

Reflecting with our region this morning, we need to add to paragraph 20 some elements to deal with the issue of the phasing out or reform of harmful incentives and the need to clarify paragraph 20 j, regarding direct allocations. Regarding paragraph 21, we need to get the sequencing of the process right. In particular, in regard to the preparation of the assessment of the performance of existing instruments in view of reaching a conclusion on the financial mechanism of the Convention in line with Art 21.

The EU and its Member States want to highlight that we need to move forward quickly with the preparation for the intersessional process. We are also willing to substantially support work in this regard.

In this spirit the EU and its Member States are ready to engage constructively in the discussion on the open paragraphs.

Thank you, Madam President.

Agenda item 10 - Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review including the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be conducted at the seventeenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Thank you, Madam President.

I'm speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

In Montreal, we did not only adopt the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, but also a monitoring and review process. For the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework, a solid, efficient, transparent and clear process for the global review of collective progress is essential. We agree that this process should be non-punitive and non-intrusive, but help identifying challenges and solutions and encourage Parties, including ourselves, to step up actions where needed.

Last year in Cali we spent long hours with negotiating the details of the global review mechanism, in order to have it as a Party-driven process, which is conducted in a comprehensive, facilitative, efficient, inclusive and transparent manner.

We are aware that not all details of the draft decision were discussed during COP16. In addition, there are a number of important elements the EU and its Member States wanted to include in the final document, but which do not appear in the current L.33 document and which we would like to see included still. However, for the sake of compromise, the EU and its Member States could accept document L.33 as we now have in front of us and will propose not to reopen it. To complete this work, we invite all Parties to accept the document as it stands. To be very clear, for the EU and its Member States the L.33 document describes the minimum level of ambition that is acceptable as a compromise.

Thank you, Madam President.

Agenda item 11 – Financial mechanism

First of all, the EU and its Member States wish to commend the GEF for the effective implementation of the biodiversity related targets in the context of the 8th cycle and the swift establishment of the GBFF.

The EU and its Member States are prominent contributors to both the GEF Trust Fund and the GBFF and we are pleased with their significant and growing contributions to the fulfilment of KMGBF targets, recognizing at the same time that meeting the target 19(a) is a collective endeavour that rest on the mobilization of many other existing instruments, from bilateral aid agencies to MDBs and Vertical Funds.

We also comment the ongoing streamlining efforts to further improve the efficiency and speediness of the support provided to developing countries by the GEF Main Trust. At the same time, we encourage further efforts to improve the GEF operations and in that perspective, we support most of the guidance that is contemplated by the L31 document.

The remaining issues we have with L31 are few:

1. Text related to a “voluntary scale of contributions” (§17 + PP) is unacceptable and would jeopardize the long-established and long-accepted freedom of donor countries to allocate their financial support through the channels they deem most appropriate;
2. The guidance provided to the GEF must be focused on the operations related to the implementation of the CBD and KMGBF. Going beyond and fiddling with the GEF governance would raise contradictions with the other MEAs that the GEF serves;
3. Last and not least, we have to ensure consistency between the FM and RM decisions and avoid overlaps. In that regard, we consider that any assessment or review process of the GEF and the GBFF should be delineated in the FM decision only.

We look forward to engaging constructively with other parties to resolve the outstanding brackets.

Agenda item 7 - Matters related to the appointment of executive secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Dear Madam President,

As already stated during our intervention in Cali under this Agenda Item, the EU and its 27 Member States remain concerned about the lack of clarity in the current administrative arrangement between the Secretariat of the Convention and its Protocols and the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the appointment process of the Executive Secretary. Therefore, we continue to consider it important to clarify the appointment process for the future.

In that regard, the EU and its 27 Member States participated actively in the development of the text before us in L35 Part B which we can support. We will therefore focus our reactions on the outstanding brackets regarding the potential renewal of future executive secretaries.

The EU and its Member States are of the view that it is very important for the stability of the work under the Convention to ensure continuity in its leadership and we therefore support the term of office of two years with the possibility of reappointment for two additional terms, on the basis on performance.

Closing Statement

Dear Minister Mohamad,

Dear Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

The full and swift implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a crucial priority for all of us. It's up to us all, Parties, and whole of society to speed up its implementation. The voice of civil society is crucial. We couldn't hear you in Rome, but we count on your contribution in the future.

Today, we made very important steps towards implementation. In an increasingly difficult geopolitical context, we demonstrated that the world can still agree on issues of common concern and multilateralism can deliver. We hope this will inspire upcoming negotiations where we need to address the triple ecological crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We cannot afford delay.

Today, we set out a clear set of actions to prepare for CBD COP17 and beyond. We therefore also look forward to the ninth replenishment of the GEF. We have a lot of work ahead of us. The EU and its Member States are ready to implement the decisions we adopted today, and we are looking forward to seeing you in Yerevan, Armenia and in the preparatory meetings in the intersessional period.

Madam President,

Thank you for all your efforts, guidance, and of course to your stellar team.

This has not been an easy journey. We wholeheartedly thank you for steering us through this process and fostering solutions that we all can support.

Thank you very much, Madam President.
