

2018 United Nations Biodiversity Conference¹

POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF A SHARM EL SHEIKH DECLARATION:

“INVESTING IN BIODIVERSITY FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET”

Introductory paragraphs

The Declaration could include elements related to the current context, including the state of global biodiversity and the economic, social and environmental trends projected for the coming decades, such as the following:

- 1) How actions taken over the next 10 to 20 years will decide the future of the world for the rest of the century and beyond;
- 2) How we need to invest in biodiversity as a center piece for our future, in a paradigm where development and prosperity go hand in hand with safeguarding biodiversity;
- 3) How biodiversity provides jobs, food and energy for hundreds of millions of people, and a safety net for the poorest and most vulnerable;
- 4) How virtually all economic sectors rely on the services provided by healthy ecosystems, including the provision of freshwater, protection against natural disasters and resilience to climate change;
- 5) How the science shows the serious implications of the loss of biodiversity, as well as the benefits of investing in biodiversity;
- 6) How we need to address the impacts of biodiversity loss through a holistic approach that takes into account integrated policy development and implementation;
- 7) How we need to live in harmony with nature to ensure continuous provision of ecosystems goods and services.

Further action on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the

UN Decade on Biodiversity

The Declaration could include elements calling for further action on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the UN Decade on Biodiversity, such as the following:

- 8) Noting that despite all efforts at national, regional and global levels, biodiversity is declining, and that the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets requires further efforts and commitment;

¹ Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, 17 - 29 November 2018; High-level Ministerial Segment of the meetings, 14-15 November 2018, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

- 9) A call for Parties and other governments to redouble efforts to make progress on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- 10) A call for Parties and other governments to fully implement all decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the mobilization of international and national resources for their achievement;
- 11) A call for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by Parties and other governments in an integrated manner that contributes to achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- 12) A call on the Secretary General of the United Nations to strengthen the contribution of the UN system to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in line with the UN General Assembly declaration establishing the UN Decade on Biodiversity;
- 13) A call for other international organizations, the business sector, academia and other stakeholders to strengthen their contributions to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the UN Decade on Biodiversity;

With respect to the mainstreaming sectors

The Declaration could include elements related to the specific sectors which will be discussed during the High-Level Segment and COP14, such as the following:

- 14) Noting that economic growth and sustainable development are underpinned by biodiversity and ecosystems;
- 15) How significant growth is projected over the coming decades in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing, and that these sectors all rely on biodiversity, whether directly or indirectly, and can also have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity;
- 16) Noting the need for an integrated participatory approach in mainstreaming biodiversity into these sectors through the provision of an enabling political, legislative and institutional environment;
- 17) A call for Parties and other governments to apply best practices to mitigate the impacts of these sectors on biodiversity;
- 18) How rapid urbanization is projected over the coming decades and poses significant risks for biodiversity and ecosystems, which are crucial for the survival and well-being of urban areas, and how biodiversity must be an essential part of planning for sustainable cities and can provide solutions such as natural infrastructure;
- 19) A call for Parties and other governments to ensure that the value of biodiversity is well integrated in their development and finance plans and processes at all levels;
- 20) A call to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other governments to utilize nature based approaches for simultaneously addressing biodiversity loss and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.

- 21) A call for Parties and other governments as well as businesses to ensure that the value of biodiversity is well integrated in their decision-making, and to use leading-edge practices and approaches for addressing biodiversity in their policies, standards and operations;
- 22) A call for Parties and other governments to utilize upstream planning tools to consider all available options for achieving infrastructure and energy and mining needs while avoiding or minimizing impacts on biodiversity;
- 23) A call for Parties and other governments, financial institutions, the business sector and other stakeholders to apply global best practices for timely strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments when taking decisions that might affect biodiversity, including fully utilizing guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;
- 24) A call for innovation and financing to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing;
- 25) A call for Parties and other governments to expand dialogue and exchange experiences and best practices among all actors involved in urban and sustainable development at the regional, national and local levels and to mainstream the principles of healthy cities in urban management and development;
- 26) A call for indigenous peoples and local communities, academics, citizens and other stakeholders to actively contribute to mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors;
- 27) How human health depends on biodiversity in multiple ways, and how the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services may negatively impact human health;
- 28) A call for Parties and other governments to mainstream biodiversity and health linkages into policies, plans and strategies;
- 29) A call for Parties to emphasize the importance of developing legislative frameworks to create financial and non-financial incentives aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity in development sectors.

Call for further action

The Declaration could include elements related to a call for further action, such as the following:

- 30) Note that the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference will launch the process for a new global biodiversity framework in 2020;
- 31) Note the key role of biodiversity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and, that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals provide opportunities and a favorable environment for mainstreaming of biodiversity;
- 32) A call for Parties to develop, in collaboration with other governments and stakeholders, an ambitious, transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework, building on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with new and effective measures and commitments to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

- 33) A call for Parties to announce, before COP-15, voluntary biodiversity commitments that may contribute to a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;
- 34) A call for mobilizing actions, resources and innovative approaches by all Parties and other governments, the finance and business sector and other stakeholders, to advance progress towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity; and
- 35) A call for a Heads of State Biodiversity Summit (Nature Summit 2020) to take place during the United Nations General Assembly before COP 15, to raise the profile of the Convention and the need for action at the highest levels.