



Press Release

Discussions open in Rome towards a Landmark New UN Biodiversity Framework

- ***Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be held at FAO Headquarters from 24 to 29 February 2020***
- ***Under review: Zero draft of post 2020 global biodiversity framework***
- ***Framework will be agreed at the UN Biodiversity Conference 2020, to be held in Kunming, China in October.***

24 February 2020. Over 1000 delegates from more than 140 countries started negotiations today at FAO headquarters, Rome on the zero draft of a landmark post-2020 global biodiversity framework and targets for nature to 2030.

The new framework will be considered by the 196 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15), Kunming, China, 15-28 October 2020.

“I cannot underscore enough the importance of making progress at this meeting. I will be encouraging the Parties to initiate and advance negotiations with a focus on building a common understanding of the different elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and on developing the key goals and targets of the framework” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“I know that the world is eagerly waiting out there for demonstrable progress towards a clear, actionable and transformative global framework on biodiversity. They want a framework that can be implemented at all levels, namely, at global, regional levels, national and subnational levels. They want a framework that builds upon the existing Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its accompanying Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a framework that aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” she said.

Almost ten years ago, the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) held in Nagoya, Japan, 2010, adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with the Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050”. Many elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are reflected in the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030).

As the period for the Aichi biodiversity targets is drawing to a close, the CBD’s 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14), held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018, established the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to develop a framework that would follow this plan, and designated Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Basile van Havre (Canada) to lead the process as co-chairs.



At the 1st meeting of the Working Group in Nairobi in August 2019, the co-chairs were mandated to prepare a “zero draft” text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This was published on 13 January 2020 and is under consideration at the second meeting of the Working Group this week. (the draft text is available in all six UN languages at <http://bit.ly/CBD-0Draft-UNlanguages>).

This initial “zero” draft is based on extensive consultations, advice from governments, scientists, indigenous peoples, NGOs and others, gathered through dozens of meetings and hundreds of written submissions.

It was also developed in response to the 2019 global assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which warned of 1 million plant and animal species threatened by extinction.

“The proposed framework recognizes that action globally, regionally, nationally, and locally is required to transform economic, social and financial systems in order to reduce biodiversity loss and put biodiversity on a path to the recovery. Governments and societies need to recognize the cost of inaction, determine priorities, internalize the value of nature and allocate financial and other resources commensurate with the challenge at hand. Only then can we achieve the shared vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050,” agreed by world governments 10 years ago” said Basile van Havre.

“The framework’s theory of change is complementary to and supportive of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. It takes into account other multi-lateral environmental agreements and involves enabling conditions and means of implementation, including financial resources, human capacity and technology, good governance, sharing of scientific knowledge and information. It also assumes that progress of implementation is monitored in a transparent and accountable manner with adequate stocktaking exercises” added Francis Ogwal.

The results of this week’s negotiations will be taken up by the third meeting of the WG2020 scheduled for Cali, Colombia, 27-31 July, the last meeting before COP15.

Webcast of the meeting’s plenary sessions, and on-demand sessions can be found at:

<http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/>

Supporting documents:

- Website of the Convention on Biological Diversity: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>
- Meeting of the Working Group: www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-02/documents
- Draft of the Post-2020 biodiversity framework
 - English: <http://bit.ly/CBDzerodraft>
 - UN languages: <http://bit.ly/CBD-0Draft-UNlanguages>

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About the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.

The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014.

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