UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP EMG

Environment Management Group High-level Dialogue: Implementing the Common Approach on Biodiversity and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15)

Thursday, 15 December 2022, 16:30-18:00 @ Place Québec Auditorium

Introduction

In May 2021, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), chaired by the Secretary-General, **approved the *Common Approach to Integrating Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development into UN Policy and Programme Planning and Delivery*** (hereafter "the Common Approach"). Through the Common Approach, the UN system expresses a shared recognition of the urgency of collective action to address biodiversity loss which, along with climate change and pollution, constitutes the triple planetary crisis that "will only become more devastating and irreversible in the future", according to the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda.

The Common Approach is intended to connect and build upon the strategies and programmes of work of UN system entities and facilitate the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), expected to be adopted at CBD COP15. Complementing the *UN System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action*, **the Common Approach catalyses concerted UN system action to tackle critical environmental challenges that together pose an existential threat to the effective enjoyment of human rights and all life on the planet.** Such concerted efforts are particularly important against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has revealed the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health, while also underscoring the importance of coordinated global action and solidarity.

The UN Heads of Agencies Dialogue will provide a unique opportunity for UN system entities to convey a united voice in supporting the post-2020 GBF by implementing the Common Approach to Biodiversity, including through targeted support to Member States. (see Annex). The Common Approach is expected to be "delivered through collaboration",

focusing on the three broad outcomes of stronger global advocacy and normative frameworks; regional collaboration; and national implementation for biodiversity.

Programme and format

The Dialogue will consist of three parts: an opening statement, keynote ministerial speeches and a panel discussion of UN agency heads and their representatives who will underscore the significance of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and the post-2020 GBF in curbing biodiversity loss and safeguarding ecosystem health in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In their keynote speeches, Member States are invited to share their views on how the UN system can better support their efforts to implement the post-2020 GBF and integrate its targets into national planning and strategies for sustainable development.

The panel discussion by UN system representatives is divided into two parts, equally addressing the following guiding questions:

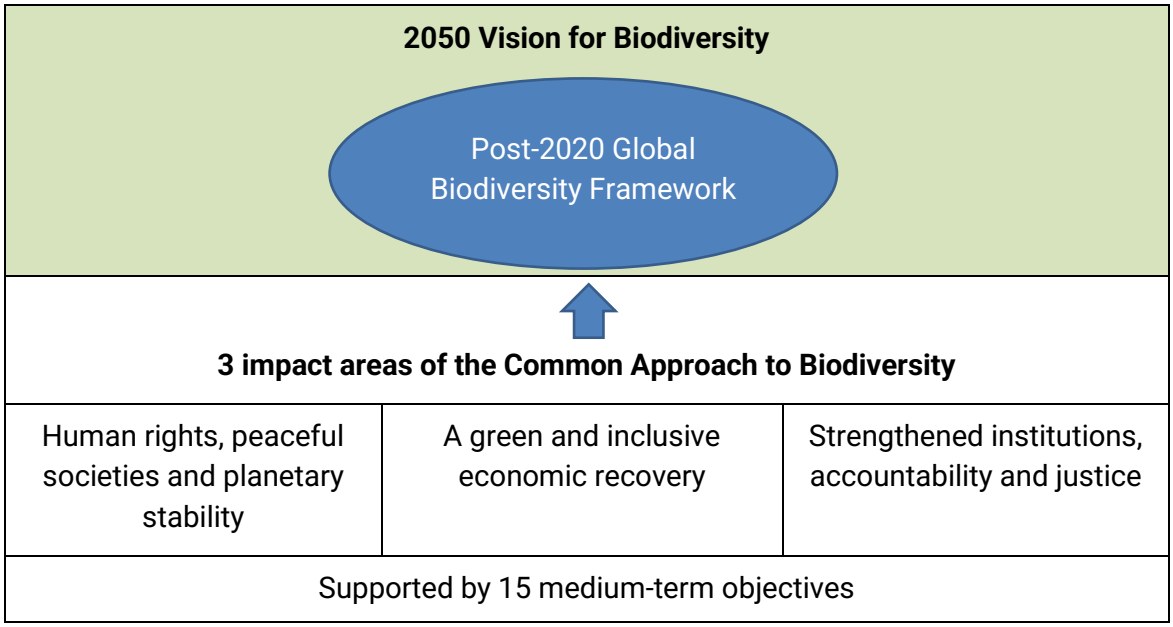
- ***How can the UN system enhance its support to countries to implement the post-2020 GBF through the UN Common Approach on Biodiversity?***
- ***What can your agency do differently with the adoption of the GBF to implement the Common Approach?***

Moderated by Pamela Chasek, Executive Editor, **Earth Negotiations Bulletin**	
Opening statement (5 minutes)	
1. Ms. Inger Andersen Executive Director of UNEP and Chair of the EMG	UN Environment Programme **(UNEP)**
Keynote speeches (5 minutes per speaker)	
2. H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad Minister of Environment and Climate COP27 Envoy	**Egypt**
3. H.E. Ms. Mariam Almheiri Minister of Climate Change and Environment	**United Arab Emirates**
Short video messages on the UN contributions to biodiversity	
Panel Discussion by representatives of the UN system (3 minutes per speaker) **Please note the order of speakers is subject to change without prior notice.*	
Panel I	
6. Ms. Olga Algayerova Executive Secretary, speaking on behalf of the five UN Regional Commissions	UN Economic Commission for Europe (**UNECE)**
7. Ms. Maimunah Sharif Executive Director	UN Human Settlements Programme **(UN-Habitat)**
8. Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar Secretary General	International Civil Aviation Organization **(ICAO)**

9. Ms. Maria Helena Semedo Deputy Director-General	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN **(FAO)**
10. Mr. Bruno Oberle Director General	International Union for Conservation of Nature **(IUCN)**
11. Ms. Ivonne Higuero Secretary-General	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora **(CITES)**
12. Ms. Amy Fraenkel Executive Secretary	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals **(CMS)**
Panel II	
13. Mr. Marco Lambertini Director General	World Wildlife Fund International **(WWF)**
14. Ms. Monika Stankiewicz Executive Secretary	**Minamata** Convention on Mercury
15. Mr. Ciyong Zou Managing Director, Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development	UN Industrial Development Organization **(UNIDO)**
16. Mr. Carlos Martin-Novella Deputy Executive Secretary	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions **(BRS)**
17. Mr. Kaveh Madani Director, Institute for Water, Environment and Health	UN University **(UNU)**
18. Mr. Daniel Violetti Senior Director for Programme Coordination	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change **(UNFCCC)**
19. Mr. Jay Aldous Deputy Secretary General	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat **(Ramsar)**
Q&A (time permitting)	
Closing	

Expected outcomes of the Dialogue

The Dialogue will help raise awareness on the Common Approach among government delegates and other stakeholders participating in CBD COP15 and create a high-level momentum in the UN system for the implementation of the Common Approach in support of the post-2020 GBF at international, regional and national levels.



Contact

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Annex: Common Approach to Biodiversity at a Glance

Outcomes of the Common Approach: delivered through collaboration in the UN system

A. Global advocacy and normative frameworks

Outcome 1: UN system entities demonstrate leadership on biodiversity and promote strong commitments for nature.

Outcome 2: The UN system delivers unified communications campaigns to mobilize demand for global action for nature.

Outcome 3: Through initiatives such as the common agenda, the UN system convenes dialogues on systemic challenges that can be addressed only through multilateral action.

Outcome 4: "The highest aspiration: a call to action for human rights" is implemented to support action on biodiversity.

Outcome 5: UN system entities collaborate with partners to provide data for insight, impact and integrity, aligned with the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere.

B. Regional collaboration

Outcome 6: The UN regional mechanisms foster collaboration within and between regions to address biodiversity-related challenges that transcend borders.

Outcome 7: Member States are supported to position regional and national priorities in biodiversity-related multilateral negotiations and processes.

Outcome 8: Regional development banks are engaged to integrate biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions into economic models and design incentives and policies for investment in ecological and social sustainability.

C. National implementation

Outcome 9: Resident coordinators and UN country teams support Member States to implement multilateral environmental agreement decisions through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and COVID-19 socioeconomic response plans.

Outcome 10: Resident coordinators and UN country teams support the inclusion of biodiversity and nature-based solutions in integrated national financing frameworks.

Outcome 11: UN country teams promote environmental and intergenerational justice as an integral part of UN advocacy on human rights, rule of law and governance.

Outcome 12: UN country teams facilitate inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships and promote networking to resolve development conflicts, nexus issues and landscape- and seascape-level challenges in a transparent and equitable manner.

Outputs

A. Internal policy alignment and coherence

Output 1: The UN system can prove its commitment to biodiversity and nature-based solutions through its corporate behaviour.

Output 2: The UN system needs to lead by example in its policy, programme planning and implementation.

B. Align current resources and mobilize additional joint financing

Output 3: UN entities can review their current programming and resources to ensure that operations integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions, prevent or account for negative impacts and do not exacerbate and accelerate biodiversity loss.

Output 4: Collaborative efforts can support the creation and capitalization of new pooled funding mechanisms for joint programming needed to restore the relationship to biodiversity and ecosystem services at scale.

C. Exchange knowledge needed to identify, prioritize, scale up and accelerate action

Output 5: Working together, UN system data, knowledge and expertise can be leveraged at all levels to provide capacity-building in support of the implementation of Member States' obligations and commitments, post-pandemic recovery plans and the biodiversity-dependent elements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Output 6: Knowledge-sharing through the UN regional mechanisms, notably regional collaborative platforms, regional issue-based coalitions and regional peer support groups.

Output 7: Greater engagement with and visibility of biodiversity in existing global coordination mechanisms.

D. Coordinate outreach and communication efforts

Outcome 8: UN entities can contribute to and use coherent narratives during the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Output 9: UN entities can coordinate efforts to capitalize on the political leadership, key outcomes and messages of the summit on biodiversity held in September 2020.

Objectives under each impact area

A. Human rights, peaceful societies and planetary stability

Objective 1: Human rights, including the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, are protected and can be exercised.

Objective 2: Persons, groups and people in vulnerable situations, particularly those who rely on natural resources for subsistence and cultural identity and those who are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation, are prioritized.

Objective 3: A One Health approach is implemented, and the interconnections among people, animals and ecosystems are recognized.

Objective 4: Nature is conserved and restored, while nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction 17 and climate action are accelerated.

Objective 5: The links between biological and cultural diversity are recognized and the protection of sites of international importance for biological and cultural diversity is enhanced.

B. A green and inclusive economic recovery

Objective 6: Public and private finance and investments, especially those mobilized to respond to the crisis induced by COVID-19, accelerate green, just and inclusive socioeconomic transitions, including from the informal to the formal economy.

Objective 7: Sustainable consumption, including sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods, is promoted, inequalities are eliminated and biodiversity loss is halted.

Objective 8: Material-intensive socioeconomic production systems are transformed to create better outcomes for people and nature, while meeting increased demand for resources and materials.

Objective 9: Sustainable and secure food systems are ensured through urgent action by all actors.

Objective 10: Markets and economic and financial practices are fundamentally reformed and use metrics for Governments, the private sector and society to measure progress towards sustainable development, supported by strengthened regulations to conserve and restore natural capital.

C. Strengthened institutions, accountability and justice

Objective 11: Institutional capacity is supported to plan and pursue integrated solutions to reverse biodiversity loss and accelerate progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Objective 12: Safeguards on biodiversity and the integrity of all ecosystems are implemented, sectoral and national accountability is clarified, and monitoring of and reporting on environmental obligations are fulfilled.

Objective 13: Environmental rule of law and procedural rights on access to information and justice are promoted, and meaningful participation in environmental decision-making is enabled.

Objective 14: Criminal justice and anti-corruption measures in relation to environment-related crimes are strengthened as an essential part of the integrated solutions to protecting biodiversity.

Objective 15: Advanced digital information and communications technologies (ICTs) are deployed to ensure open access to and equitable coverage of data and repositories.