

CBD COP 15: Strengthening Synergies through the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Promoting Transformational Change to Restore Balance with Nature

Side Event at UNFCCC COP 26

Saturday, 6 November 2021, from 11:45 to 13:15 UK time

Climate Action Room 1 of the SSE Hydro Bowl (Blue Zone)

Organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

1. Background

Humanity has reached a critical crossroads in its relationship with nature, facing multiple interlinked global crises. Climate change, land degradation, rising air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, including the extinction of species and unprecedented pressures on terrestrial and marine ecosystems, must be addressed with urgency, all within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery. The United Nations system and all stakeholders will have a critical role to play in supporting action in all countries.

To address the crisis of biodiversity loss, governments are currently working to prepare a new agreement – the post-2020 global biodiversity framework – to chart a way forward and enable the world to achieve the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature. The framework is expected to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the second part of its fifteenth meeting (COP 15) in Kunming, China, in 2022.

The adoption of an ambitious new agreement on biodiversity raises some important questions. How will the United Nations system, governments, businesses, the financial sector, Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and other stakeholders support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework within the current landscape of multilateral agreements on environment and development, such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and others? What are their unique contributions to ensure the new framework adequately responds to the connected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification? How can these actors utilize the post-2020 framework to reinforce existing and unlock fresh synergies to bring about the transformational changes needed?

2. Objective

This high-level interactive panel discussion will focus on how best to leverage action, policies, programmes, and multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance the implementation of global agreements such as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Paris Agreement, the goal of Land Degradation Neutrality, the Sustainable Development Goals and other global frameworks, in order to maximize co-benefits and leave no one behind. Panelists will provide a broad range of views from actors across the UN system, governments, the private sector, IPLCs and civil society to showcase the many different levers available to strengthen synergies through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Panelists will highlight priority areas of action and reflect on how existing approaches can be improved, underlining the importance of collective and integrated action across the whole-of-government, whole-of-society and the UN system. In doing so, the event will also help to build political momentum for the adoption of a strong and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework at CBD COP15.

3. Format and structure

The event will take the format of a high-level panel discussion divided into two rounds. The moderator will open the event and invite the keynote speakers to provide opening remarks. The moderator will then introduce panelists for the first round, including high-level representatives from governments and invite them to respond to focused questions allowing them to highlight their countries' experience, priority areas and expectations for driving synergies through the post-2020 framework, amongst others. Following a question-and-answer session, the moderator will open the second round, introducing the panelists including the heads of United Nations organizations and agencies, and representatives from the private sector and IPLCs. The panelists will also be invited to respond to focused questions that will allow them to highlight their unique contributions and perspectives from their organization, region, or constituency, followed by a question-and-answer session open to all participants.

Agenda

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| | <p>Opening</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director, Implementation and Support Division, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</p> | Introduction |
| 10 min | <p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (online)</p> <p>Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</p> <p>Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme</p> | Opening remarks |
| 20 min | <p>Panel 1: National and multilateral ambition</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China and President of CBD COP 15 (video message)</p> <p>Mr. Nicolás Galarza, Vice Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Colombia</p> <p>Ms. Tamara Finkelstein, Permanent Secretary, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom</p> <p>Mr. R.P. Gupta, Secretary, Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India</p> <p>Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General for Environment of the European Commission</p> | Inputs and perspectives from panelists (approx. 4 min each) |
| 15 min | <p>Discussion and Q&A</p> <p>Comments and questions</p> | Discussion with panelists |
| 30 min | <p>Panel 2: Multi-stakeholder engagement and contributions</p> <p>Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility</p> <p>Ms. Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (online)</p> <p>Mr. Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency</p> <p>Ms. Lucy Mullenkei, Co-chair of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, Executive Director of Indigenous Information Network</p> <p>Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director-General of WWF International</p> <p>Mr. Mahendra Singhi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd., representative of the Confederation of Industry of India (online)</p> <p>Mr. Haoliang Xu, Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (online)</p> | Inputs and perspectives from panelists (approx. 4 min each) |
| 15 min | <p>Discussion and Q&A</p> <p>Comments and questions</p> | Discussion with panelists |
| | <p>Closing</p> <p>Moderator</p> | Closing |