



**H.E. Dr. HAN, Wha-jin
Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea**

**Message on the International Day for Biological Diversity
22 May 2023**

I have the pleasure of sharing this message with the world on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on behalf of the Republic of Korea as the COP12 Presidency.

This year's celebration is more meaningful than ever as it is the first one after the historical decision that the world made last winter; the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which is the new set of biodiversity strategies for 2030.

The Framework is a manifestation of the urgency that humanity realized of halting and reversing biodiversity loss. The GBF is a significant improvement from the previous strategies, by including 23 very ambitious targets, emphasizing roles of not only governments but also businesses and civil society as well as accompanying the monitoring framework for goals and targets.

Now, the rest is up to each country to implement the GBF. The Republic of Korea, as a responsible member of the global community, has also embarked upon consultation processes for the national implementation of the GBF. Last year a consultation process related to the expansion of protected areas was already initiated. This year, we are performing a nation-wide examination of degraded sites; and restoring them in order to further our contribution towards biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Most importantly, we plan to complete our new National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) that are in line with the GBF by the end of this year. To this end, the National Committee for NBSAP Development along with a working group were established this March, which are composed of relevant ministries, experts, industries and civil society.

The theme of the IDB this year is "From agreement to action: Build back biodiversity". As it emphasizes, it is time for the world to join the effort to implement the agreement made in Montreal and halt the loss of and build back biodiversity. The wisdom to make wise decisions, and the courage to put them into action are key to leaving a healthy planet to the next generations.

Thank you.