



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

No. prev. doc.: 14828/19

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Adoption

1. The Presidency has prepared a set of draft Council conclusions on the abovementioned subject, aiming to provide a broad political guidance for the ongoing preparations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be considered for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 15) in Kunming, China, in October 2020. The Council will be requested to adopt a more specific mandate for the negotiations at COP 15 at a later stage.

2. The Working Party on International Environment Issues (WPIEI) and the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) discussed previous drafts of the conclusions at their meetings in October and November 2019. The Presidency also launched an informal silence procedure to reach an agreement on a few remaining issues

 3. The Presidency had prepared a new version of the draft conclusions aiming to address the remaining concerns for the Permanent Representatives Committee. The Committee examined the text on 11 December 2019. The Presidency concluded that the text as presented to the Committee, with a small change on the Green Deal, constitutes a good overall balance, reflecting the discussions held at the Working Party level and the outcome of the silence procedure, and will therefore be transmitted to the Council without any further amendments.

 4. In light of the above, the Council is invited to adopt the draft Council conclusions as set out in the Annex to this note at its meeting on 19 December 2019.
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**Preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

- Draft Council conclusions -

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING:

Decision 1386/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 ‘Living well, within the limits of our planet’;

The conclusions of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including the commitment made by the Parties at its High-Level Segment;

The findings of the 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), which warn that nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, and that the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impact on the goods and services provided by nature and for people around the world;

The New Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024 adopted by the European Council, which insists on the urgent need to build a climate-neutral, green and socially just Europe, that takes account of national circumstances, and commits to lead efforts to fight the loss of biodiversity and preserve environmental systems, including oceans;

The Council conclusions on:

- "Climate diplomacy" ¹;
- "The progress on the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy and on a new strategic framework for forests" ²;
- "More circularity - transition to a sustainable society" ³, which stress that circular economy is an effective tool for tackling the drivers and root causes of biodiversity loss;
- "The 8th Environment Action Programme - Turning the Trends Together" ⁴;
- "Preparations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings (Santiago de Chile, Chile, 2-13 December 2019)" ⁵;
- "A sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment" ⁶;
- "Stepping up Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests" ⁷;
- "Oceans and Seas" ⁸;

RECONFIRMING that the EU and its Member States are strongly committed to the full and timely implementation of the CBD and its Protocols ⁹;

TAKING NOTE of the Commission's Communication on the European Green Deal, including the intention to adopt a Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, aimed at making the EU climate-neutral, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, improving the health of citizens and ensuring the sustainability and circularity of our economy;

1 6153/19.

2 8609/19.

3 12791/19.

4 12795/19.

5 12796/19, concerning the UNFCCC meetings, which following events after the adoption of the conclusions, were relocated to Madrid, Spain.

6 14594/19.

7 [Ref. no. to be inserted upon adoption]

8 14249/19.

9 The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization; the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya- Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol.

URGENCY OF ENHANCED GLOBAL ACTION

1. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN about the global rate of biodiversity loss, that is unprecedented in human history and poses a direct and existential threat to human life and wellbeing; STRESSES the need for urgent global actions to halt biodiversity loss and to significantly strengthen implementation of the CBD at all levels, as the world is already witnessing devastating impacts, such as the degradation of land, oceans, fresh water and forests, deforestation and desertification, because of multiple and often interdependent human-caused drivers, notably changes in land and sea use, exploitation of natural resources, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species;
2. IS DEEPLY ALARMED about the outcomes of the assessment report on land degradation and restoration, and the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services released by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), as well as the reports released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 and 2019, noting their strong convergence on the need for urgent, transformative change; in this regard NOTES WITH SERIOUS CONCERN the alarming state of nature, with around one million species at risk of extinction, the far reaching implications of ecosystems degradation, in particular deforestation, forest and wetlands degradation, and the severe implications of unabated climate change resulting inter alia in ocean acidification with negative impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems and communities, and the ocean economy;
3. STRONGLY REGRETS that, despite increased efforts, the world, including the EU and its Member States, are not on track towards achieving most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and that our current ambition and actions are insufficient for attaining the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

4. REAFFIRMS that the EU and its Member States will lead and step up efforts against biodiversity loss, and strongly contribute to the adoption of an ambitious and realistic post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with as far as possible measurable targets and indicators; UNDERLINES the urgent need for transformative change to achieve the 2050 Vision, to safeguard and improve the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services at all levels, to reinforce ecosystem resilience, connectivity and ecological restoration, and to avoid ecosystem degradation;
5. In the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED to enhance synergies and mutual support among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and relevant frameworks and organizations, such as the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the *Framework on Chemicals Management (SAICM)*, the UN New Urban Agenda, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
6. ENCOURAGES the EU and its Member States to consider joining relevant global initiatives aimed at strengthening political awareness and ambition for the protection of biodiversity, such as high ambition coalitions, to urgently implement existing commitments and to make additional commitments, and thereby to significantly step up actions to halt biodiversity loss and to reverse ecosystem degradation, thus also contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;

7. UNDERLINES that efforts to fulfil the 2030 Agenda, and its SDGs, and to halt biodiversity loss are strongly interdependent and mutually reinforcing; HIGHLIGHTS WITH CONCERN that the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019 identifies the biodiversity-related SDGs 14 (“life below water”) and 15 (“life on land”) among the goals showing a negative long-term trend; STRESSES that costs of further inaction to halt biodiversity loss will significantly rise with regard to ecosystem functioning, the environment, wetlands, seas and oceans, human wellbeing, water and food security, which in turn will seriously threaten achieving many of the SDGs;
8. REAFFIRMS the importance of the precautionary approach, included in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, for the CBD and its protocols; WELCOMES the work under the Cartagena Protocol in particular with regard to assessing potential risks associated with biotechnologies; furthermore, WELCOMES the work under the Nagoya Protocol and CALLS UPON all Parties to the Protocol to strengthen their efforts to make the Nagoya Protocol fully operational;
9. UNDERLINES that biodiversity and healthy ecosystems and their services support the full enjoyment of human rights;
10. STRESSES the urgent need to effectively combat environmental and wildlife crime;

STEPPING UP ACTION AND AMBITION OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

11. URGES the EU and its Members States to simultaneously address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, by setting ambitious, realistic and as far as possible measurable goals, targets, and implementation measures;

12. CALLS UPON the European Commission to develop without any delay an ambitious, realistic and coherent 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy as a central element of the European Green Deal addressing both the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, including objectives for habitats and species conservation, and applying the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach; also CALLS UPON the European Commission to consider other relevant regulatory and non-regulatory measures for biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and their services, taking into account the findings presented in the forthcoming 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy;
13. URGES the EU and its Member States to fully mainstream biodiversity into all relevant European and national sectoral, cross-sectoral and global policies, in particular of climate, trade, industry, tourism, agriculture, food, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, maritime affairs, energy, mining, transport, infrastructure, health, development cooperation, research and innovation, economy and finance, for example by developing sectoral biodiversity action plans in these sectors; in this context, UNDERLINES the need to ensure adequate and consistent funding for biodiversity;
14. CALLS FOR the full, effective and coherent integration of biodiversity in particular into the design and implementation of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, and in future policies, such as the 8th Environmental Action Programme (EAP), the Climate Pact, the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Zero Pollution and Farm to Fork Strategies, the new Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy;
15. UNDERLINES the importance for the EU and its Member States to develop, adapt or adopt National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with clear timeframes, in order to contribute to the implementation and achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; STRESSES the need for urgent additional commitments to halt biodiversity loss, protect and restore terrestrial, freshwater, wetlands and marine ecosystems within and outside protected areas, and to fully implement the EU nature legislation; RECOGNIZES the need to promote green and blue infrastructure, nature-based solutions fostering biodiversity and the sustainable use of soil, forests, oceans and other natural resources;

16. UNDERLINES the interdependence of environmental, social, cultural and economic challenges; HIGHLIGHTS that nature-based solutions play an important role to solve global challenges such as biodiversity loss and ecosystems degradation, poverty, hunger, health, water scarcity and drought, gender inequality, disaster risk reduction and climate change;
17. STRESSES the need for nature-based solutions in support of biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable use, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, as presented in recent IPCC Special Reports, in the further development of EU climate policies in line with the Paris Agreement goal to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1,5°C above pre-industrial levels;
18. HIGHLIGHTS the need to incorporate biodiversity costs and benefits throughout the value chain and in national accounting, to obtain a transition towards net positive impact of business on biodiversity and to mobilize the private sector to deliver biodiversity outcomes; UNDERLINES the need to ensure sustainability of consumption, trade and production and significantly reduce the EU's ecological footprint at all levels; in this regard HIGHLIGHTS the role of the circular economy and CALLS UPON the EU and its Member States to support a rapid, inclusive, just and green transition;
19. UNDERLINES the importance of enhancing efficiency, cost-effectiveness, mainstreaming and synergies of available resources and of mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources (financial, human technical and institutional) for biodiversity; STRESSES the need for the biodiversity proofing of all relevant financial streams, in order to avoid having negative impacts on biodiversity, and where possible, to produce co-benefits for it;
20. ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of the successful Global Environment Facility (GEF7) replenishment and STRESSES the need for continued support by the GEF for the implementation of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework;

21. STRESSES its commitment to concluding an ambitious, international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) by 2020; REAFFIRMS the need for the effective and full implementation of relevant existing commitments and processes, relating to marine and coastal biodiversity;
22. IS COMMITTED to:
- leading by example and strongly contributing to the adoption of an ambitious and realistic post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with as far as possible measurable targets and indicators, including a mission₂ to halt the loss of and restore biodiversity by 2030;
 - mainstreaming biodiversity into all relevant EU policies, for example the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
 - working towards ensuring a clear link between the 2050 Vision, the 2030 Mission, one or a small number of possible overarching objective(s), milestones, goals and targets;
 - improving implementation, integration and mainstreaming of actions for biodiversity in relevant plans and policies, and also underlining the key role of NBSAPs in this context;
 - enhancing regular review of implementation and accountability of nature and biodiversity policies, actions and commitments, with a view to regularly enhance their effectiveness and increase their ambition, when necessary;
 - strengthening and setting up actions and contribute to the adoption of concrete measurable targets to effectively tackle the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss as identified by the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
 - working with all Parties, stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, science and business, to have a successful outcome at CBD COP 15 and onwards that responds to the challenges underlined in the IPBES 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

- promoting good governance for the integration of biodiversity in all relevant sectors, including by fostering public participation in decision-making processes, and improving the effectiveness of access to justice;
- taking concrete action to halt the decline of pollinators;
- increasing the EU-wide coverage, as appropriate, of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and enhancing and improving their management effectiveness, and promoting measures on ecosystem connectivity and ecological restoration;
- conserving biodiversity, sustainably using its components and fairly and equitably sharing the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including through appropriate access to genetic resources, in line with the CBD and its Protocols and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA);
- scaling up research and innovation for nature and biodiversity, respecting the precautionary approach, and promoting scientific, technological and economic co-operation, including in restoration and management of ecosystems, and continuing to promote actions against invasive alien species in Europe and worldwide;
- improving monitoring systems and technologies, including utilizing new data sources to enhance the quality, timeliness and comparability of comprehensive biodiversity data;
- increasing the application and implementation of nature-based solutions in support of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, to address global challenges, inter alia biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, land degradation, disaster risk reduction, water and food security, human health and poverty eradication;
- enhancing and accelerating the transition towards a resource-efficient, safe, circular and climate-neutral economy that also protects and restores biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- strengthening and strongly scaling up efforts to mainstream biodiversity into all sectors, including through possible specific and measurable sectoral targets, and strengthening work to eliminate subsidies harmful to biodiversity;

- incorporating the value of biodiversity and avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity throughout the entire value chain, including in production, trade and consumption;
 - improving efficient and effective use and mobilization of resources (financial, human, technical and institutional) from all sources for biodiversity and make domestic and international financial flows, including in public procurement, consistent with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
 - ensuring that the EU external policies, including trade, are in line with its commitments for biodiversity;
 - taking necessary measures to effectively combat wildlife crime; including fighting against illegal killing of and trade in threatened species;
 - working with the private sector to mobilize and increase private investments for biodiversity in line with the CBD objectives, encouraging businesses to assess and reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, to mainstream biodiversity in their activities and to make commitments to the Sharm-el Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People;
 - making individual and/or joint EU voluntary commitment(s) at the United Nations General Assembly 75th session in September 2020 or at CBD COP 15 to contribute to an effective and successful post-2020 global biodiversity framework by addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss identified by the IPBES Global Assessment 2019;
 - reverting to the issue in order to adopt a mandate for the negotiations leading to the adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework at CBD COP15.
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