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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 27 March 2025 Resumed session of the UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 16.2 / Cartagena MOP 11.2 / Nagoya MOP 5.2) (Rome, Italy, 25-27 February 2025) - Information from the Presidency and the Commission

The 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference took place from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia, with the theme “Peace with Nature”. The Conference covered the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16), the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP COP/MOP 11) and the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (NP COP/MOP 5). In the early morning of 2 November, the Conference was suspended due to a disagreement between developing and developed countries regarding funding, and to a subsequent loss of quorum, with 7 decisions left pending.

The Resumed Session of the 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 16.2, CP COP/MOP 11.2 and NP COP/MOP 5.2) **took place** at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) **in Rome, Italy, from 25 to 28 February 2025**. The event was attended by around 900 participants representing about 140 Parties, including government officials, representatives of inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, scientific institutions, business representatives and women and youth groups. All EU Member States participated, as well as the European Commission.

This resumed session aimed to finalise decisions that are crucially important for the continuity of various CBD processes and for keeping momentum for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in order to put nature on a path to recovery.

Intense deliberations resulted in the adoption of all outstanding decisions.

The four key topics during the negotiations were: **resource mobilisation (RM)**, **financial mechanism (FM)**, **mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (PMRR)** and the **Monitoring Framework (MF)**. COP adopted also a decision on **cooperation** with other conventions and organisations, and on the **appointment of executive secretaries** of the convention. The draft decision on the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) was reduced to two paragraphs, deferring further substance to COP 17 due to a lack of time.

The main achievements of the Second Resumed Session of the 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference are as follows:

- a clear roadmap on resource mobilisation with two tracks, one focusing on the objective of mobilising resources from all sources, the other focusing on the process to designate the permanent financial instrument for the Convention, currently *ad interim* the Global Environment Facility (GEF);
- adoption of the revised resource mobilisation strategy for the period 2025-2030; a four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities for the ninth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (2026–2030), and additional guidance to the GEF, provisions for an assessment of its effectiveness and possible elements for its reform;
- endorsement of technical updates to the headline and binary indicators and the adoption of the list of binary indicators in the monitoring framework for the GBF;

- a revised template for the seventh and eighth national reports;
- clear procedures for the global review of implementation ('stocktake') of the GBF at CBD COP17 and 19, which will be a Party-led process guided by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with support from its Bureau, informed by a global report on collective progress in implementation, which will be produced under the oversight of an ad hoc scientific and technical advisory group and subject to peer review;
- core reporting elements for commitments by actors other than national Governments.

Detailed report

1. Resource mobilisation

The COP adopted a decision on resource mobilisation after three days of intense discussion.

As expected, resource mobilisation dominated the discussions throughout the COP, with developing countries calling for establishing a new fund for official development assistance (ODA) at this COP, while EU and JUSCANZ insisted on a wider approach to close the biodiversity financing gap, launch an open and evidence-based process until 2030 for deciding on a potential new financial mechanism for the CBD or confirming the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is the current 'ad interim' Financial Mechanism under the Convention. The EU and its Member States have had a long-standing position that the biodiversity finance landscape should not be further fragmented and establishing a new mechanism relying primarily on ODA would not have any added value, in particular because it does not mobilise additional financing.

The agreed outcome reflects a two-track approach, focusing on both the wider biodiversity financing gap and an open process for a 'definitive' decision at COP18 in 2028 to establish or designate the Financial Mechanism for the Convention. The decision provides for a relatively heavy intersessional process and criteria/elements that have different interpretations, notably the requirement that there should be at least one instrument under the authority and governance of, and accountable to the CBD COP. As explicitly mentioned, for the EU and its Member States, the GEF complies with this condition, while acknowledging that some other Parties have another interpretation.

Furthermore, the final decision:

- emphasises the urgent need to increase financial resources from all sources- public and private, domestic and international- and underscored the urgency of mobilising large-scale financing to address biodiversity loss;
- urges developed country parties to continue and enhance their efforts to increase total biodiversity-related international financial resources;
- strengthens monitoring by regular review of the resource mobilisation strategy at each future meeting of Conference of the Parties;
- Provides for an assessment of the effectiveness of the GEF.

The EU and JUSCANZ also succeeded in strengthening the wording on broadening the donor/contributors base, which is crucially important throughout multilateral negotiations.

The resource mobilisation strategy in the annex reflected negotiations in Cali and was adopted without further changes.

2. Financial Mechanism (FM)

The COP decision provides guidance to the GEF for the financial support it provides to developing countries in the field of biodiversity. Most of the decision had already been agreed in Cali. Many of the outstanding issues were resolved as part of the compromise concerning resource mobilisation. Also on other issues, fair compromise wording was agreed, including a compromise on exploring ways to increase and strengthen the predictability of financing and to report on this matter for consideration by COP 17. EU and its Member States succeeded in softening language on exploring a voluntary scale of contributions and multi-year pledges.

The decision also provides for a study benchmarking the GEF against similar instruments of other MEAs and lists in its Annex elements to consider for the next (seventh) assessment of the effectiveness of the GEF and invites relevant GEF bodies to consider reforming its governance and explore enhancing the equitable geographical representation within and among its constituencies.

COP also took note of the report on the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism (GEF and GBF) and adopted the Four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities and further guidance for the GEF on, inter alia, biodiversity and health, knowledge management, capacity building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, the GBF monitoring framework.

The Conference of the Parties also requested the GEF to strengthen its efforts to mobilise resources for the implementation of the Convention and its Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols and to enhance cooperation with the Green Climate Fund.

3. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (PMRR)

The PMRR decision specifies the procedures and preparatory process for the Global Review of Implementation to be conducted at COP17 and 19 in 2026 and 2030 respectively. This decision is crucially important for the continuation of CBD processes and indirectly for maintaining political momentum for implementing the GBF.

Many Parties, including the EU+MS, supported adopting the draft decision that was tabled by the COP President at the end of negotiations in Cali, emphasising that it represented a fair compromise. Nevertheless, some Parties proposed small amendments. Most proposals were rejected, but following requests from Zimbabwe and subsequent informal consultations, a footnote was added to clarify the way Parties can object to publishing commitments from non-state actors in the CBD online reporting tool.

The main elements of the documents are the following:

- A revised national reporting template for the seventh and eighth national reports, which parties are requested to submit by 28 February 2026 and 30 June 2029, respectively;
- The core reporting elements for the submission of commitments by actors other than national Governments, and the general principles for including such commitments in the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review

- Provisions outlining the focus and process of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the GBF. Provisions establishing that the global review will primarily be based on national reports and the global report on collective progress in implementing the GBF.
- Provisions outlining the focus, structure and sources of information for the global report
- Establishment of an ad hoc scientific and technical advisory group for the preparation of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with a time-bound mandate until the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and adoption of its terms of reference.

4. Monitoring Framework

The agreed COP decision reflects the largely agreed outcome from Cali and the compromises reached by a small group on three bracketed indicators. They included: 7.2 on *Pesticide environment concentration/aggregated total applied toxicity* and related footnotes - both options were accepted for national reporting. The indicator on *Global environmental impacts of consumption* was deleted while the *Ecological footprint* indicator for Target 16 was accepted.

The most important elements included in the decision CBD/COP/16/L.26/Rev.1:

- The adoption of technical updates to the headline and binary indicators in the monitoring framework for the K-M Global Biodiversity Framework, as contained in annex I;
- The optional disaggregation of the headline indicators and voluntary component and complementary indicators in the monitoring framework for the K-M Global Biodiversity Framework, as contained in annex II;
- The adoption of the list of binary indicator questions contained in annex III.

The decision provides that further work is needed to develop component indicators and their methodology on subsidies harmful to biodiversity, taking into account the optional sectorial disaggregation of headline indicator 18.2, as well as positive incentives to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The decision also calls on Parties to strengthen their national monitoring systems to enable the indicators to be used in the seventh national report due by February 2026. The COP invited Parties to use the guidance provided by the Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, the Global Ecosystem Typology and the indicators developed for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The decision calls on developed countries to enhance international cooperation to address the technical and financial constraints faced by developing countries and to build capacity in implementation of K-M GBF monitoring framework. The regional and sub-regional centers for technological and scientific cooperation, agreed in Cali, will play an important role.

5. Cooperation with other conventions and organisations

The agreed decision resolved the few issues that were left outstanding in Cali. Notably, two references to the new treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, were deleted, which was acceptable to the EU+MS, as similar wording was already included in the decision on Marine Biodiversity adopted in Cali (Decision COP16/16).

Unfortunately, the Russian Federation requested deletion of references to the negotiations on a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution and Argentina asked for changes to the paragraphs on cooperation with the FAO and the UN Water Conference. Due to lack of time, and to avoid having no decision at all, the EU supported by Switzerland proposed adopting the decision without these paragraphs, which was agreed by all Parties. The final decision recognises the importance of enhancing cooperation and synergies among all relevant conventions, organisations, and initiatives for achieving the common global objectives. The decision also highlights the importance of regional strategies, frameworks, plans, and initiatives for the implementation of the GBF. The decision invites, inter alia:

- UNEP - to continue supporting cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions and relevant MEAs;
- the CBD Secretariat - to continue its collaboration with the secretariats of the other Rio Conventions through the Joint Liaison Group, and to explore the potential for a joint programme of work;

- governing bodies of the chemicals and waste conventions, FAO, and others - to collaborate with the three Rio Conventions in reduction of pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity (GBF Target 7);
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - to develop tools and guidance on a human rights-based approach for implementation of the GBF;
- Parties - to strengthen cooperation through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, comprising also a strengthening of subnational and local governments' capacities, to contribute to the Convention's implementation.

6. Matters related to the appointment of executive secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The COP decision welcomes the appointment of Astrid Schomaker with effect from 1 July 2024 and decides that, in line with general practice across the UN, the term of office of all Executive Secretaries shall be two years, with the possibility of reappointment for one additional term, depending on performance. A proposal from Brazil to avoid reappointment of the current executive secretary was not supported by any Party. The procedures for consulting the Bureau were slightly amended in order to avoid issues of confidentiality, thereby addressing concerns raised by UNEP.

7. Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW)

There was no time to negotiate the decision on MYPOW. The adopted decision merely requests the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Bureau, to prepare a list of issues for consideration at COP17, and to review and update the MYPOW up to 2030 at COP17.

8. Decision of the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (NP COP-MOP5)

NP COP-MOP 5 took note of COP decision [16/2](#) on digital sequence information on genetic resources as adopted in Cali. This decision sets out the modalities for operationalising the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including the Cali Fund.