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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	UN Biodiversity Conference 2024 (CBD COP 16, Cartagena MOP 11, Nagoya MOP 5) Cali, Colombia, 21 October - 1 November 2024 – Statements by the EU and its Member States

Delegations will find in the Annex, for information, a compilation of statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States at the abovementioned meeting.

**Outcome of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2024
(CBD COP 16, Cartagena MOP 11, Nagoya MOP 5)
Cali, Colombia, 21 October - 1 November 2024**

– Statements by the EU and its Member States –

16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Agenda item 1 – Opening of the meeting

Madame President, Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to address this plenary on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

We express our appreciation to the people and Government of Colombia and the City of Cali for warmly welcoming us here for the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Meetings of the Parties to its Protocols.

In December 2022, we adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Two years on, the urgency to act together as a global community has never been greater. As our collective focus has shifted from negotiation, implementation of the Framework at all levels is an essential part of the effective, inclusive and sustainable actions needed to address the interdependent global ecological crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution and waste, land and ocean degradation in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent way.

As part of the European Green Deal, the EU adopted the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and additional strategies, norms and policies that create a vast basis for fulfilling international commitments, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This includes the Nature Restoration Law, which came into force in August, which is a critical part of our implementation strategy and an important step towards reversing biodiversity loss, achieving EU climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives and increasing Europe's resilience to the effects of climate change and natural disasters. The EU's targets, as submitted to CBD, include links to all relevant policies. These are also complemented by strategies, targets and policies from the Member States.

The adoption at this meeting of a solid, efficient, transparent and clear process for the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the GBF, as well as updating the monitoring framework, is essential to strengthen implementation and incentivise additional commitments.

With the three Rio Conventions all meeting this fall, we have a unique opportunity to ensure that their work is mutually supportive, strengthening implementation of the GBF, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Full and effective implementation of the GBF will require resources from all sources, commensurate with the challenge we face. The EU and its Member States remain committed to mobilising resources from all sources and to progressively aligning all relevant financial and fiscal flows with the goals and targets of the GBF.

We are on track to deliver on existing commitments as regards our international public biodiversity finance. We have contributed to a significant replenishment of the Global Environment Facility that will help implement the Global Biodiversity Framework. And we reiterate the importance of adopting a revised resource mobilisation strategy at this meeting.

We also reaffirm our willingness at this meeting to contribute to adopting the operational modalities of the multilateral mechanism for benefits sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund.

Underlining the importance of capacity building, we are in favour of adopting the modalities for the global coordination entity for technical and scientific cooperation. Drawing on the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity will help us to bring together tools and services to support implementation.

It is crucial that biodiversity is mainstreamed and the GBF implemented at all levels, galvanizing action by Governments and throughout the UN system, within and across all levels and sectors and all of society - including the private sector - aligning its activities to the GBF.

The GBF must also act as a catalyst to better align, prioritise and direct the work of the various bodies of the Convention and its Protocols, its Secretariat and budget in an efficient manner.

It is important that we take a good look collectively at the functioning and effectiveness of mechanisms and processes under the Convention and its Protocols given the maturity of the Convention implementation and the needed focus on. There is clear scope for improvement and this requires careful consideration.

We are also very aware of the crucial role that Indigenous Peoples and local communities play in protecting, restoring and conserving biodiversity and we look forward to adopting a solid new programme of work on Article 8(j) and finding an adequate solution for future institutional arrangements for full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in CBD processes.

We remain committed to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and look forward to fruitful discussions at COP-MOP 5, which could contribute to greater effectiveness and improvements in the implementation of the Protocol.

As regards the Cartagena Protocol, we continue to be committed to the effective implementation of the Protocol. We also welcome the new Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol and look forward to continued cooperation with all Parties concerning the effective implementation of both instruments.

Ladies and gentlemen, now it is time to accelerate: the European Union and its Member States stand ready to work constructively with all Parties, IPLCs, women, youth, and other stakeholders to enhance global implementation of the GBF for the benefit of the planet and people, and work towards Peace with Nature.

Thank you.

Agenda item 11 - Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Financial mechanism

Thank you, Chair.

I'm speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

GEF has a key role to play in supporting the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Therefore COP should take this to provide strategic guidance to the GEF.

The EU and its Member States welcome progress that has been made since the start of the 8th Replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund in supporting countries to meet the objectives of the CBD. We appreciate that the GEF, through several umbrella programs, is providing support to the development of NBSAP's, national reports and national biodiversity finance plans.

Although 69% of resources for biodiversity of the GEF Trust Fund are programmed in 50% of the duration of GEF-8, some of the available funding in GEF-8 seems to be underutilised, in particular funding foreseen for activities related to the protocols. We are open to explore possible solutions to

In GEF-8 a key feature is the maximum flexibility between STAR allocations. We encourage eligible countries to make use of that key feature and unlock the potential for global environmental benefits of integrated programming and supporting activities that target several focal areas.

Funding needs assessment

With regards to the funding needs assessment for GEF-9, the EU and its member states regret that it has not been conducted as planned. We invite the budget committee to take this issue up in its deliberations to avoid such a situation in future.

Guidance to GEF and GBFF

The GEF needs to continue its efforts in mobilizing additional resources from all sources, including through engagement with the private sector and strengthening its cooperation with multilateral development banks.

The EU and its Member States welcome the adoption of the terms of reference for the auxiliary body and an advisory group by the GBFF Council.

Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

With regards to the elements in the draft decision stemming from the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, the EU and its Member States would like to share the following views.

The EU and its Member States find the role and nature of the GEF's implementing agencies to be something to be considered across conventions, not for the CBD in particular. Therefore, we propose modifications to paragraph 31 (c).

The EU and its Member States question the added value of establishing a standing committee on the financial mechanism and are of the opinion that the existing subsidiary bodies should be well equipped to discuss the guidance towards the financial mechanism.

The language on the reform of the governance of the GEF in the draft decision is also not acceptable to the EU and its Member States. This is an issue of a transversal nature, as the GEF Assembly represents every country that is a Party to UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Minamata Convention and Stockholm Convention. Taking into account biodiversity in a country as a basis for representation in the GEF's governance would be inappropriate since the GEF is the financial instrument of several Conventions. Other criteria related to climate, pollution, high seas, chemicals, etc. would also be applicable, making governance impractical.

With regards to reference in the draft decision on collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility, we underline that this is already an ongoing process and should continue, based i.e. on the "Long-Term Vision on Complementarity GEF and GCF Collaboration".

Annex: Four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) On the guidance to GEF and GBFF.

With regards to ANNEX I, we would like to propose some textual amendments when this annex is further discussed given the limited time to discuss this agenda item during SBI-4.

We would like to receive further clarification on the reasoning behind the proposal of additional guidance to support the implementation of section C and targets of the GBF, since the GEF already includes information in its report on how it contributes to many of these targets mentioned.

Agenda Item 13 - Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions

22 October 2024, Working Group I

Thank you, Madame Chair, I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Cooperation is essential to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework. The EU and its Member States are in favour of enhanced collaboration and strengthening of synergies among the CBD, the UNFCCC, and the UNCCD at all levels, as well as improved collaboration with other MEAs, relevant UN initiatives and international processes, such as through the Bern process, the Paris Agreement and the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme.

On a scientific level, we are in favour of further strengthening cooperation between IPBES and IPCC, as well as the activities related to the yet-to-be-established science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention.

We consider it important to foster synergies between the Rio Convention Secretariats. We think that the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions should play an important role in bringing this work forward, and the potential for joint work between the Conventions should be explored. In light of the above we agree with the requests to the Executive Secretary in OP18 and we propose some minor amendments to highlight these.

We also welcome the language regarding increased collaboration and coordination at the national level, especially in the revision development and implementation of strategic policy documents, capacity building and development, monitoring, resource mobilization, and reporting. Cooperation between national focal points, including with focal points of other conventions, is central in that regard, especially when they are in different government departments.

We also welcome the Joint Statement by the UNFCCC, CBD and CCD COP Presidencies on Climate, Nature and People at UNFCCC COP28 to support synergetic implementation of their respective national instruments for biodiversity to maximize synergies among actions, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure efficient use of collective resources.

We would welcome the fostering of synergies and coherence between national plans and strategies under the Rio Conventions, as this is an essential and crucial step to ensure that national efforts to tackle both the nature and climate crises – including efforts to monitor actions and impacts – are mutually reinforcing, help ensure efficient policies, and maximise efficient use of resources.

Although some of the important items are well-reflected in the decision text, some important elements are missing. Therefore, we propose to add two paragraphs to the preambular paragraphs.

Firstly, the EU and its Member States propose an additional paragraph to welcome UNFCCC COP 28 decision 1/CMA.5 on the Outcome of the first global stocktake, in particular the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement. Secondly, we welcome the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), and stress the importance of future cooperation and collaboration between the CBD and the BBNJ Agreement to support the effective implementation of the K-M GBF, in particular its Target 3; and we propose a paragraph on this matter. We have some additional minor amendments to the draft decision and we will submit our text proposals in writing to the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 19 - Sustainable wildlife management

Thank you, Mister Chair, I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The EU and its Member States welcome the gap analysis prepared by the Secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management in document CBD/COP/16/INF/6 and CBD/COP/16/INF/7, as well as the summary of the gap analysis presented in document CBD/COP/16/11.

The EU and its Member States underline that sustainable wildlife management is a broad and complex issue, representing a crucial component of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), it has clear linkages, specifically to Goals A and B and Targets 4, 5, 9 and 10. We would like to emphasize that the decision on potential further guidance should be taken in coherence with agenda item on scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the KMGBF, including implications for the programmes of work of the Convention (AI 16) and the broader issue of implementing the elements in the KMGBF relating to sustainable wildlife management.

We would like to highlight that even legal harvesting, use of and trade in wild species can be unsustainable and that therefore efforts to halt all unsustainable practices should be underlined. Additionally, traceability is an essential part of being able to identify sustainable trade routes.

The EU and its Member States agree with the prioritization of the general areas that require complementary guidance identified by the Secretariat based on the further gap analysis. To fulfil the recommendation referred in the document CBD/COP/16/11 paragraph 26, we would like to propose paragraph 5bis and 5ter, to invite regional and subregional organizations to produce further guidance on the regional level in relation to the gaps identified across the seven key elements and to have a follow-up on this task. Additionally, the EU and its Member States would like to take note of the recommendations of the *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* referred to in paragraph 45 of document CBD/SBSTTA/25/11 because the further gap analysis has clear gaps regarding all species that are not the focus area of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management.

We note that for some stakeholder groups the access to incentives towards biodiversity conservation, such as biodiversity credit schemes is important and are of the view that paragraph 7 of the draft decision should be retained with some minor modifications.

Finally, the EU and its Member States are of the view that opening agreed, clean text should be avoided to help the negotiation process. If other Parties open subparagraphs (n) and (o) of paragraph 4 the EU and its Member States have some minor suggestions.

In light of this we have some additional minor amendments to the draft decision. We will submit our text proposals in writing to the Secretariat.

Agenda item 20 - Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity

Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

30 October 2024, Plenary

The European Union and its Member States are pleased that the Decision on the EBSA modalities was adopted tonight after 8 years of intensive negotiations. This is a major achievement for the CBD as well as for the conservation of marine biodiversity around the world. We would like to thank the CBD Secretariat for its continuous support of the negotiations and all parties actively and constructively engaging in them.

The EU and its Member States note that paragraph 5 of Annex I of the Decision on Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, relating to the objection to the inclusion of a description or a modification in the repository or the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, owing to the existence of a claim or dispute relating to sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction involving an area included in the submission, is without prejudice to paragraph 3 of that decision. We request that this statement is recorded in the note of the meeting.

Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

1 November 2024, Plenary

The European Union and its Member States are pleased that the Decision on “Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity” was adopted tonight. In particular, we would like to emphasize the significance of the Decision towards continuing CBD’s efforts on marine issues and closing the gaps in the Programmes of Work on marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity in order to successfully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

We would like to thank the CBD Secretariat for their unwavering support throughout the negotiations and we thank all parties for their active and constructive engagement.

However, we deeply regret that we were unable to reach a compromise text that highlights the important link between the rapid entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. The European Union and its Member States are committed to the swift ratification of the BBNJ Agreement and urge Parties and invite other governments to accelerate their ratification process so that the agreement can enter into force in time for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

We request that this statement be recorded in the report of the meeting.

Agenda item 23 – Plant Conservation

23 October 2024, Working Group II

Thank you Mister Chair, I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The EU and its Member States welcome the set of complementary actions included in the annex of document CBD/COP/16/2 and overall support its adoption. They intend to continue the work building on previous achievements while considering the plant conservation priorities and actions identified during the various international meetings and stakeholder consultations.

During SBSTTA25, CRP1 on this agenda item was adopted hastily. As a result, Parties were unable to raise issues, such as on paragraph 8 on financial and technical support, and Action 17 for Target 17 in the Annex on safe biotechnologies of the SBSTTA25 Recommendation. The EU and its Member States raised the issue on the difficulties to intervene during CRP01 reading and a note was added to the final report (CBD/SBSTTA/25/13 para. 49) to acknowledge the complaint about the lack of opportunity for discussion. Based on this, I wish to raise the following points:

1. Regarding Paragraph 8 of the draft decision the EU and its Member States would like to point out that developed countries may not be “requested” to pay for the implementation of voluntary actions. “Encourages” or “Invites” would be better wording. Moreover, the mention of Article 20 and 21 of the Convention is not necessary in this paragraph.
2. Action 17 for Target 17 of the Annex covers only a part of Target 17, and the wording is not aligned with the scope of Target 17, therefore the EU and its Member States would like to propose an amendment regarding this action. Further, EU and its Member States would like to keep the focus of action 17 on measures related to plant conservation, considering both the distribution of benefits but also biosafety procedures. Additionally, the EU and its Member States are of the view that paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the Convention of Biological Diversity is not sufficiently covered by the existing action for Target 17.

We will submit our text proposals in writing to the Secretariat.

**11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

Agenda item 5 – Report of the Compliance Committee

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving us the floor, I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The EU and its Member States welcome the work of the Compliance Committee in the intersessional period, and appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Committee to assist Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Protocol.

We welcome the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme through its Law and Environment Assistance Platform to Parties with a compliance action plan under active consideration as well as the efforts made by Parties to develop these action plans.

We support the recommendations provided by the Compliance Committee regarding reporting obligations and the obligation to nominate national focal point, respectively.

We support the Caution to be issued in good faith, and do not have any amendments to the draft decision.

Finally, we note the recommendations and concerns raised by members of the Compliance Committee in the report of its nineteenth meeting, acknowledge the need for their further consideration, and are willing to participate in the discussions, if a discussion group, e.g. a Friends of the Chair group, is installed.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Agenda item 7 – Matters related to the financial mechanisms and resources

Madam Chair, thank you for giving us the floor. I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

We take note of the document prepared by the Executive Secretary.

However, we note with concern that, two years into the implementation of the eighth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, no projects have been submitted to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

We welcome the establishment and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and its Programming Directions, which include action area eight to addresses capacity-building issues and support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

Furthermore, we stress the importance that the Executive Secretary reaches out actively to the Parties in order to help them in fulfilling their obligations with providing them information on sources of funding for biosafety.

The EU and its Member States support to request to the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its programme dedicated to the Cartagena Protocol to support eligible Parties in implementing the Protocol.

We are open for discussions how to further explore modalities to enhance the operational effectiveness of the funding of biosafety activities and take-up by countries. We, therefore, agree with the message of the current drafting of the draft decision, but we would propose to let the language reflect the exact wording of the recommendations following the functional review.

The EU and its Member States are open to consider further initiatives – by GEF or by the Executive Secretary – regarding capacity-building activities for both the national biosafety experts as for the national experts managing the GEF application process to enhance accessibility and effectiveness of funding in relation to the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

We will submit our text proposals in writing to the Secretariat.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda item 8 – Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving us the floor, I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We appreciate the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in operating and improving the Biosafety Clearing-House in the previous intersessional period and we would also like to thank the work carried out by the Compliance Committee in this regard as well as the work undertaken by the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House. Therefore, we propose adding an additional preambular paragraph in the draft decision to reflect that.

We support the continuation of the process to make further improvements to the Biosafety Clearing-House as it is an important tool for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

We appreciate the increased number of submissions to the Biosafety Clearing-House. However, we recognize that some records might be outdated and, therefore, support requesting Parties, other governments and other organizations to make revisions and updates as necessary and in a timely manner. Hereby, we are committed to review our records on the Biosafety Clearing-House to verify their accuracy on the new platform and to make any revisions or updates as necessary. We also continue publishing information available at the national level on the Biosafety Clearing-House in accordance with the obligations of the Protocol, in a timely manner.

Furthermore, we welcome collaborative activities of the Executive Secretary not only with biosafety-related organizations, but with biosafety-related databases as well. We also support their continuation.

With regard to the Bioland tool, we appreciate its development that allows Parties to easily establish a functional Biosafety Clearing-House national website with linkages to the central portal of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

We support requesting not only the Global Environment Facility, but also other funding organizations, to assist Parties in their activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House and their national biosafety websites.

Lastly, the EU and its Member States support the continuation of developing capacity-building materials and of providing trainings on the new developments of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

We will submit our amendments to the text of the draft decision in writing.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Agenda item 11 – Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving us the floor. I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The EU and its Member States support the development of additional voluntary guidance materials on LM fish, considering the views expressed by some Parties during SBSTTA 26 and earlier discussions, and the current research developments related to LM fish.

Moreover, we see the added value of voluntary guidance materials within the Cartagena Protocol vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention.

The appropriate implementation of the process and also the lessons learnt from past experiences are of utmost importance for us.

We have some suggestions regarding the process to ensure a step-wise approach. This is to increase efficiency of resources and to ensure that the AHTEG will be able to produce work of high quality.

Most prominent of these suggestions are to favor the AHTEG to draft the detailed outline, to increase the number of meetings from two to three, subject to availability of resources, in order to allow the AHTEG sufficient time to complete its tasks.

Moreover, we suggest to replace the second series of online discussions on the detailed outline by a peer review before the AHTEG starts developing the voluntary guidance materials and we also suggest that the detailed outline would be structured according to the problem formulation approach.

We will send our suggested amendments to the draft decision to the Secretariat in writing.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Agenda item 13 – Socio-economic considerations

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving us the floor. I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The EU and its Member States welcome the information shared by Parties on their experiences in the use of the voluntary guidance. We also appreciate that examples of methodologies and applications of socioeconomic considerations in the light of the elements of the guidance were shared. However, the EU and its Member States recognize the very low number of submissions, thus the limited information available in this regard.

The EU and its Member States welcome that 28 Parties responded to the letters sent by the Executive Secretary by sharing additional information to their fourth national reports on their experiences in assessing socioeconomic considerations.

We support continuation of this practice, and invite Parties to share their views and further experiences and information on using the voluntary guidance in the fifth national reports and to make these information available in the Biosafety Clearing-House.

We support the draft decision and do not have any amendments to the text.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Agenda item 14 – Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving us the floor. I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The European Union and its Member States are strongly committed to continue the process of ratifying, accepting and approving or acceding to the Protocol following the requirements of national legislation. We also believe that the mechanisms provided in the Supplementary Protocol are necessary and useful for the functioning of the Cartagena Protocol, and we are convinced that a clear and well-functioning approach to liability and redress is essential.

We welcome the progress made by many Parties to the Supplementary Protocol towards its full implementation. However, we note with concern the limited number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol that have ratified the Supplementary Protocol. We therefore encourage Parties that have not yet done so, to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Supplementary Protocol.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the additional records published in the Biosafety Clearing-House containing the contact details of the competent authorities and we also welcome the information provided by Parties on the measures in place to provide financial security for damage from living modified organisms. However, we note with regret the limited number of Parties that provided such information.

We are of the opinion that the polluter pays principle should be taken into account when developing further financial security mechanisms and therefore we would like to highlight its importance again, as was stressed at COP-MOP10. In this regard, we would like to encourage Parties to take this principle into account when developing financial security mechanisms.

We are convinced that capacity-building and awareness-raising are key to support not only the efficient implementation but also the ratification of the Supplementary Protocol.

We have some textual amendments to the draft decision, which we will submit in writing.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties
to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing**

Agenda item 5 - Report of the Compliance Committee

Thank you, Mister Chair.

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the work of the Compliance Committee in the intersessional period.

The EU and its Member States note with regret the slow progress in implementing the Protocol's provisions, as identified by the Compliance Committee, and in particular to put in place appropriate measures to implement the obligation to designating National Focal Points and Competent National Authorities as well as designating checkpoints to monitor the utilization of genetic resources, to making information available in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House.

The EU and its Member States, while acknowledge the need for continuous efforts to fully implement the Nagoya Protocol, reiterate the urgency to improve its effectiveness and efficiency. This includes the development of standardized and simplified access and benefit sharing measures, the promotion and facilitation of research that contributes to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and also contributes to the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The EU and its Member States support the recommendations of the Compliance Committee. and we only have one editorial amendment to paragraph 10, which is to add “and development” after capacity building, to align the language to the report's findings.

The EU and its Member States also support the extension for two years the terms of the five members of the Compliance Committee.

Thank you, Mister Chair.

Agenda item 7 - Financial mechanism & resources

Thank you, Madame Chair.

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The EU and its Member States take note of the document prepared by the Executive Secretary.

The EU and its Member States appreciate that the GEF-8 replenishment has an increase of the biodiversity focal area compared to GEF-7.

As regards to GEF-9, we urge developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify and provide information on their national funding needs.

With regard to the countries that have not requested support to implement their projects on access and benefit-sharing using the GEF modalities, we ask the Secretariat to reach out actively to these Parties.

The EU and its Member States support the draft decision with some amendments. Namely, regarding paragraph 3 (e), we suggest that the COP does not select specific options to be examined. We also propose to add a paragraph 5bis to reflect the recommendation of the Compliance Committee that is relevant for this agenda item. We will submit our suggestions in writing.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Agenda item 9 - Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and information-sharing

Thank you, Mister Chair.

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The EU and its Member States welcome the report prepared by the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of the ABS Clearing-House.

The EU and its Member States express their appreciation to the Executive Secretary for continuously developing and administering the ABSCH and for providing information and on-demand technical support to Parties and other stakeholders. We note with appreciation the steady increase of national records.

The EU and its Member States welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to identify the challenges for Parties and users of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources with regards to the national records in the ABSCH. We stress the importance of addressing the needs raised.

It's crucial for Parties and users to know whether or not a country regulates access to its genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It is also crucial to have clarity on the rules and procedures of access and benefit-sharing obligations. On these regards, there is an urgent need to fill in the information gap in order to ensure legal certainty with respect to access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated to them.

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Informal Advisory Committee on the ABSCH for their valuable contribution to the ongoing work. The EU and its Member States support the priorities for further development and administration of the ABS Clearing-House, as identified by the Committee.

The EU and its Member States also support the draft decision with one suggestion to improve paragraph 5, in order to better distinguish the obligations, set by the Nagoya Protocol.

We will submit our textual proposal in writing.

Thank you, Mister Chair.

Agenda item 13 - Enhancing the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Thank you, Mister Chair.

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The EU and its Member States take note of the document prepared by the Executive Secretary on progress made to enhance the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The EU and its Member States welcome the progress made by Parties and non-Parties in revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and submitting national targets with a link to Target 13. We urge other Parties that are yet to submit or upload these, to do so without delay.

The EU and its Member States also welcome the study commissioned by the Executive Secretary on access and benefit-sharing indicators and their methodology.

In order to achieve the third objective of the CBD, and thus the objective of the Nagoya Protocol it is crucial to address all elements of Goal C and of Target 13 of the Framework when developing national targets and revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

We urge Parties to put in place the mechanisms and tools necessary for the collection of national information on monetary and non-monetary benefits received. This will enable reporting on progress in achieving Goal C of the Framework.

The EU and its Member States were among the first ones to put in place some of the legally binding compliance measures and established related institutional structures. This shows that we are fully committed to the implementation of the Protocol and to achieve Target 13.

We believe that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is an opportunity to enhance the fulfilment of the third objective of the CBD and strengthen its linkage with the first and second objectives of the Convention. This includes further improving the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and making relevant information about benefits received and how they contributed to biodiversity available.

Thank you, Mister Chair.

Agenda item 16 - Global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism

Thank you, Mister Chair.

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The EU and its Member States believe that the need for a Global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism under Article 10 has not been established, and therefore, discussing modalities is premature.

Furthermore, discussions around the operationalization of the DSI multilateral mechanisms established at COP 15 are taking place concurrently. The EU and its Member States believe that discussions should focus on how to operationalize the DSI multilateral mechanism rather than establishing the need for yet another global multilateral mechanism. We need to avoid the duplication of work and we need to optimize efforts.

Therefore, the EU and its Member States support closing the discussion on the item or, alternatively, postponing the item to a future Meeting of the Parties, also in view of the second assessment and review of the Nagoya Protocol.

Thank you, Mister Chair.
