

**High-level event of the United Nations Regional Commissions**

**At the fifteenth Conference of the Parties under the Convention  
on Biological Diversity**

**15 December 2022, 1.15 – 2.45 pm**

**Jigsha room (513B)**

Excellencies, Executive Secretaries, Participants,

One of the core values of the United Nations is respect for diversity, which includes all living organisms on our planet. For example, every single species of bird makes our lives more colourful and enjoyable with its unique melodies. However, more importantly, every species on planet Earth is a unique piece of the puzzle we call nature's balance. The more diverse life on this planet is, the more stable Mother Earth is.

Biodiversity is not an end in itself – something that is “nice to have”. It is one of the main pillars that we must protect if we want to sustain our lives and those of our descendants. It took millions of years of evolution to arrive at the level of diversity that existed at the beginning of the industrialization process. However, for the last 100 years that diversity has been declining at an unprecedented and ever-accelerating rate.

That is why, under the aegis of the United Nations, Governments have adopted the Convention on Biological Diversity. That is also why the United Nations system has joined forces to deliver as one through its “Common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery”.

The draft post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework needs to become operational without delay.

During COP-15, the Parties have continued to work to find common ground in order to agree on the new Framework and other complementary documents, such as the Strategy for Resource Mobilization and the Action Plan for the Long-term Approach to Biodiversity Mainstreaming. However, current and future generations require us to act now. We simply cannot postpone any longer the concrete and impactful actions needed to halt biodiversity loss.

As the five regional commissions of the United Nations, we stand ready to support our member States.

We have a shared responsibility and the means to contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity worldwide. We can streamline the four main goals towards 2050 in our activities. Moreover, we will support member States' efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 15 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims at halting biodiversity loss.

We can assist countries in implementing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and in mainstreaming biodiversity for transformative changes in our societies, economies and institutions and for the necessary internal policy alignment and coherence.

Through the collection, analysis and assessment of relevant data on biodiversity, we will also work to promote the development of human

rights-based legal, institutional and policy frameworks for the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the protection of biodiversity.

We will facilitate access to these data as a strategic condition for engagement with society. This approach, we believe, can support behavioural change, strengthen environmental justice, and facilitate effective public access to information.

To address biodiversity-related challenges, we will also collaborate within and among the regions; we will coordinate our efforts with the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Paris Agreement, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

We will continue to strengthen knowledge-sharing and exchange on biodiversity, including through the regional forums on sustainable development, in order to increase the visibility of biodiversity issues at the regional and global levels.

Last but not least, we will support countries in strengthening their capacity to mobilize resources and investments in various ways, such as through better access to bilateral and multilateral financing, as well as innovative financing mechanisms such as carbon credits, “green” and “blue” bonds or debt swaps.

Excellencies, participants, the tasks ahead are clear. We now urgently need commitment and concrete actions. It is now or never. We simply owe it to our planet and, above all, to the next generations. Let's commit to halting biodiversity loss here and now and make Montreal the historic moment that it deserves to be.

Thank you.