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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

Nairobi, 20 February 2018

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1

Agenda 7

Note by the Secretariat on upcoming milestones on biodiversity

The Secretariat is pleased to present a note in support of discussions under agenda item 7 “Progress of implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget and the Assembly resolutions”. This note responds to the request of the resolution UNEP/EA.3/L.6/REV.2 on *pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors* to the Executive Director, to prepare a note on upcoming milestones on biodiversity and present it to Member States for further consideration during this meeting. The said resolution is attached as an annex of this note.

Introduction

1. This note was prepared in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other Secretariats of its related specialized partner agreements, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Secretariat of the International Whaling Commission, the Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. This note covers the period from 1 March 2018 to 31 December 2020. The criteria for listing are of global significance, political angle and formal character of the respective milestones. Milestones are included which are expected to aim for outreach and awareness raising. Purely technical meetings, for instance, are therefore not listed.
3. This period coincides with the final three years of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. A follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will be developed under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A process for its development will be decided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth meeting in November 2018 with the expectation that a post-2020 global framework for biodiversity be adopted at its fifteenth meeting in light of its final assessment of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Upcoming milestones on biodiversity

4. These major international conferences will be organized:
 - a. From 17 to 24 March 2018 in Medellin, Colombia, the sixth Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will take place;
 - b. From 24 June to 4 July 2018 in Manama, Bahrain, the World Heritage Committee will hold its 42nd session;
 - c. From 9 to 18 July 2018 in New York, the meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council will be held to review, among others, Sustainable Development Goal 15;
 - d. From 3 to 14 September 2018 in Florianopolis, Brazil, the International Whaling Commission will hold its 67th meeting.
 - e. From 21 to 29 October 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat will hold its 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
 - f. From 10 to 22 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the Convention on Biological Diversity will hold the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of

the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and the 3rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from their Utilization;

- g. From 3 - 7 December 2018 in Monaco the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks will be held;
- h. From 4 to 8 December 2018 in the Republic of South Africa the 7th meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds will be held;
- i. In the first quarter of 2019 the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia will be held (date and venue to be decided);
- j. In April 2019, the seventh Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will be held;
- k. In 2019, Regional Conservation Forums will be organized in all IUCN statutory regions in preparation for the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress (date and venue to be decided);
- l. From 23 May to 3 June 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora will be held;
- m. In June 2019, the World Heritage Committee will hold its 43rd session;
- n. In Autumn 2019, the 8th session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will be held (date and venue to be decided);
- o. In Autumn 2019 in Paris, France, the 22nd General Assembly of the State Parties to the World Heritage Convention will be held (date and venue to be decided);
- p. In November 2019 the 7th Meeting of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the contiguous Atlantic area will be held (date and venue to be decided);
- q. In 2020, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals will hold its 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (India, date to be decided);
- r. In 2020, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature will hold the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress (date and venue to be decided);
- s. In 2020, in Beijing, China, the Convention on Biological Diversity will hold the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and the 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from their Utilization.
- t. In 2020, the International Whaling Commission will hold its 68th meeting.

5. The following international days have been established by the United Nations General Assembly:

- a. 2 February: World Wetlands Day

- b. 3 March: World Wildlife Day;
 - c. 21 March: International Day of Forests;
 - d. 22 March World Water Day
 - e. 22 April: International Mother Earth Day;
 - f. 20 May: World Bee Day;
 - g. 22 May: International Day for Biological Diversity;
 - h. 5 June: World Environment Day;
 - i. 8 June: World Oceans Day.
6. Launched by the Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement in 2006, World Migratory Bird Day has evolved to become the world's premiere bird education and awareness-raising campaign. From 2018 onwards, events to celebrate the World Migratory Bird Day will be organized twice a year, both on the second Saturday in May and in October. The World Migratory Bird Day has been observed as an international day by the United Nations for the past 10 years, but has yet to be formally recognized as an "international day" by the UN General Assembly.
 7. 2020 will be designated as the International Year of Plant Health and the decade 2011-2020 has been declared the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity by the United Nations General Assembly.
 8. In addition, 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the seventieth anniversary of IUCN, both of which will be celebrated through a number of events during 2018.
 9. Major reports aiming for a broad global audience are the Global Wetland Outlook: State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People, due to be released in October 2018 (Ramsar Convention), the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, due to be released in October 2018, the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook, due to be released by the end of 2018, the global assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, due to be released in the second quarter of 2019, as well as preceding regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the restoration assessment, due to be released in March 2018, and the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook due to be released in 2020 prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.



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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Third session
Nairobi, 4–6 December 2017**

**Draft resolution on pollution mitigation by mainstreaming
biodiversity into key sectors**

Submitted by Mexico and co-sponsored by Colombia, Egypt and Monaco

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that a healthy environment is a fundamental condition for the well-being of all life forms, which greatly depends on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the ecosystem goods and services it underpins,

Concerned about the negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and health worldwide, caused by pollution of air, land/soil, inland water and oceans,

Bearing in mind that some activities conducted by the service and productive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, extractive industries such as oil, gas, mining and energy, as well as manufacturing and processing industry, among others, result in pollution of air, land/soil, inland water and oceans,

Recognizing that mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programs, implies that biodiversity is a vital part of the functioning of productive and service sectors and that these should seek to reduce, avoid and mitigate their negative impacts, including pollution, while also generating positive effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services, contributing to sustainable development and the provision of essential services for human health and well-being,

Also recognizing that mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into different sectors and fostering cross-sectoral initiatives provides an opportunity to achieve the goals and objectives of different Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international commitments, such as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, among others,

Recalling Resolution 2/16 of the United Nations Environment Assembly on mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being,

Welcoming the Convention on Biological Diversity Parties' adoption of the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being, adopted during

the High-Level Segment of the 13th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Cancun, Mexico in 2016,

Welcoming also the Convention on Biological Diversity Parties' Decision XIII/3 on mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors and all other decisions adopted by the parties at CBD Conference of the Parties 13 held in Cancun, Mexico in 2016,

Further welcoming Convention on Biological Diversity Parties' Decision XIII/33 deciding that the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol will be held in Egypt from 10 to 22 November 2018 and expressing also appreciation to the government of Peru for its offer to host intersessional open ended meetings prior to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the role of the biodiversity related conventions such as the Ramsar Convention on wetlands in mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors,

1. *Invites* member States, taking into account differing national circumstances:

(a) To strengthen their efforts to mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within and across sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, mining and energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing industries in order to promote the reduction, mitigation, and remediation of the negative impacts, including pollution, related to these sectors, on biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services;

(b) To work on establishing, strengthening or fostering institutional, legislative and regulatory frameworks, and incorporating an inclusive economic, social and environmentally sustainable approach involving relevant stakeholders such as indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, civil society, private sector and national and subnational governments, as appropriate;

(c) To support sustainable production and consumption through value chains, the application of clean technologies, the elimination, phasing out or reform of incentives harmful to biodiversity, and the strengthening and promotion of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent with international obligations;

(d) To promote the creation of standards and good practice guidelines, related to biodiversity in service and productive sectors taking into account ecosystem based approaches and implication of cumulative environmental effects on biodiversity;

(e) To encourage the adaptation of practices for sustainable infrastructure, the conservation of landscapes and ecosystems, the sustainable use of land and marine spatial planning and the introduction or promotion of measures to raise awareness of the multiple values of biodiversity, that contribute to prevent pollution;

(f) To encourage investments in biodiversity as a means of enhancing the functioning of ecosystems and the services they provide;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director, to promote close coordination, collaboration and synergies related to mainstreaming biodiversity among relevant organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral environmental agreements and, as appropriate, other organizations and international initiatives and processes;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to closely cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as appropriate and within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, on the implementation and follow up of the decisions of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially on aspects related to pollution mitigation through mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors;

4. *Invites* member States to consider biodiversity as one of the issues for the UNEA4; and requests the executive director to prepare a note on upcoming milestones on biodiversity and present it to the member States for further consideration by the 141st meeting of the CPR and the first UNEA bureau meeting in 2018.
