

Draft NGO Comments on Conclusions

Thank you Chair

I am Janice Cox from World Animal Net, speaking on behalf of several NGOs here.

With regard to the conclusions of the report, we agree with the conclusion that the analysis demonstrates gaps and deficiencies on multiple levels. Indeed, we are surprised that some member states still seem not to acknowledge such gaps, despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

We would also like to see more consideration given to the need to develop a system which recognises the unity, interconnectivity and interdependence of the Earth's ecosystem, and uses the planetary boundaries framework to monitor and drive international environmental governance. We note that at least 6 of the 9 planetary boundaries are already covered by existing international documents, and to use the evolution of scientific knowledge in law, is also the natural process of the evolution of law.

With regard to the need for harmonisation and more effective implementation, we would like to reiterate our support for a Global Pact for the Environment – in the form of an organizing and connecting legal instrument, that could become a binding international instrument in the future.

We would like this to include the delineation of updated and enhanced environmental principles.

We recognise that there are also changes needed at various other levels – strategic and systemic overview, governance, harmonisation and coordination, and monitoring and implementation – including financial incentives and disincentives, in order to incorporate the vital work of restoring and protecting nature into the economy.

There will need to be much work before the next meeting to develop a range of options for addressing these issues at multiple levels, and NGOs request full participation in the process of developing such options. We have significant and varied expertise to offer. Also, our constituencies work in the field across environmental issues, and see the impacts of the many gaps first hand. We have our own thoughts and suggestions on key options for addressing these

gaps – and we are certain that our inputs and expertise will help to yield practical options for beneficial change.