

OPENING REMARKS

COBSEA Webinar on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

DATE: 28 May 2020

TIME: 14.00 – 15.30 (UTC+7)

- Good morning and welcome to the COBSEA webinar on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Warm thanks as well to all of you for making time to attending this webinar.
- 2020 is a super year for nature and biodiversity and in the words of UNEP Executive Director Ms. Inger Andersen it means to embrace, acknowledge, integrate, and act for nature in everything we do.
- The 2019 special report released by the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) showed that species globally are at a decline at an alarming rate with over 1,000,000 species threatened with extinction.
- The report attributed the loss on species diversity to human activities such as changes in land use and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive species. The report further estimates that 66% of the marine environment have been significantly altered by human actions and that 100-300 million people are at increased risk of floods and hurricanes because of loss of coastal habitats and protection.

- The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan, “Living in harmony with nature”¹ and the Sustainable Development Goals² related to Oceans have already set ambitious target for healthy oceans. This target may not be achieved if we do not have concrete measures to address the myriad of challenges facing the oceans today. This includes climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, invasive species, etc.
- The Post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society’s relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.
- To achieve these objective certain transformative actions will need to be put in place such as:
 - mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the policies, plans, programmes, strategies and practices of public and private actors, which could be achieved with more proactive, focused and goal-oriented environmental action, including quantitative goals;
 - developing integrated approaches across sectors, which would enable more systematic consideration of biodiversity by public and private decision makers, with ecological fiscal reforms providing an

¹ The vision of this Strategic Plan is a world of “Living in harmony with nature” where “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

² SDG 14 Life below water

integrated set of incentives to support the shift to sustainable development; and

- participation of a wide range of actors and stakeholders who are increasingly integrated into governance processes, which could have a positive effect on biodiversity if the effectiveness, efficiency and equity implications of such integration were carefully monitored, evaluated and improved.
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- I believe this webinar is one such forum for consultation and provides us an opportunity to discuss and share ideas on how to strengthen ocean governance particularly on marine biodiversity in the Seas of East Asia region and to deal with the ever increasing and complex marine biodiversity challenges.
 - I wish you all successful deliberations.