

CANCUN COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE ROLE OF LEGISLATORS IN MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY FOR WELL-BEING

We, legislators gathered together on the occasion of the CBD COP13 Legislators Forum at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016, on 7 December 2016, have discussed practical strategies and success stories in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets through focussed legislative leadership.

We have deliberated on the opportunities for integration of biodiversity mechanisms and objectives into agriculture, fisheries, tourism and forest governance frameworks as a bridge between the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Targets, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In concluding our CBD COP13 Legislators Forum, we

Welcome that:

Governments, through ministers and others heads of delegations have adopted the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being and committed to its objectives.

We concur with many of the statements made by Governments in the Cancun Declaration, including:

- *“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, which strongly reflect biodiversity, provide new opportunities to address development challenges in a transformative manner and with a perspective that integrates environmental, economic and social dimensions.*
- *To implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Paris Agreement, adopted at the twenty-first session of its Conference of the Parties, which notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity when taking action to address climate change, as well as of the Marrakech Action Proclamation adopted in November 2016 at the twenty-second session, can and should also contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and vice versa.*
- *We need to make additional efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and, as applicable, the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, and facilitate closer collaboration with other*

initiatives adopted in international forums related to sustainable development, trade, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism, among other sectors.”

In addition, bearing in mind that conservation, sustainable use, and where necessary, restoration of ecosystems are needed for achieving disaster risk reduction, we note the relevance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in efforts to promote a holistic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity for the well-being of current and future generations.

Furthermore, we emphasise the important, and often neglected, role of women in biodiversity conservation and equitable use of natural resources, and the crucial need for gender aware and gender responsive policies and frameworks in addressing the biodiversity crisis by promoting women’s active participation in problem-solving and decision-making on the issues.

We Pledge, as legislators in our national and sub-national parliaments, to

Work with governments and other stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, to

Use our constitutional powers of review, scrutiny, budget and law-making to hold governments to account in our national parliaments for their commitments made at this and related multilateral fora, to

Work tirelessly in our home parliaments and in partnership with stakeholders and legislators elsewhere, to promote a more coherent and convergent approach to governance, bearing in mind government’s diverse international commitments on the broad sustainability agenda, encapsulated in Agenda 2030, and the imperative to break down silos and develop new more effective models of governance for sustainable development to meet the ambitious goals of the major summits of 2015 and Cancun’s 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature.

We welcome the opportunity of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 (22-26 May, Cancun, Mexico), including the parliamentary meeting on 23 May, to further efforts recognising the links between disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development.

In conclusion, we call upon the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016, to take into account this Communiqué and the engagement of parliamentarians in its work. We also request the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to call on its Secretariat to recognise the contributions that parliaments and legislators can make in the mainstreaming of biodiversity and, in particular, commend their role in ensuring transparency and democratic accountability in its concluding report to the Conference.