



STATEMENT BY

MS. ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

AT THE OPENING OF THE SPECIAL VIRTUAL SESSION OF SBI-3

**In-session review of implementation: Testing of a Party-led review process,
through an Open-Ended Forum and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization**

Wednesday, 16 September - Thursday, 17 September 2020, 11:00 UTC (7.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. EST)

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this special virtual session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and I sincerely thank you for your participation. May I also offer my sincere thanks to the Government of Egypt, representing the Presidency of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for joining us today.

Today, we will seek to harness the latest communication technology and take a virtual step forward in the intergovernmental process. Although we are in the midst of an extraordinary global pandemic, and all the pain and disruption it has wrought, we will not let it deter us in our work. Instead, we will renew our sense of urgency and redouble our resolve to conserve and protect biodiversity and nature. We often speak of the important role of technology in protecting biodiversity. Today, as the saying goes, we have an opportunity to “put our money where our mouth is” and continue our progress virtually as we seek to advance our discussions on key issues essential to our future success.

However, I do also wish to acknowledge the challenges we face. In yesterday’s virtual session on the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, we received a number of requests for the floor which we were unable to accommodate due to the limited time we had available. We also acknowledge that we had some difficulties in prioritizing regional statements as the Chair had indicated would be the case. We are all learning to optimize the way we can work virtually, and please be assured that the Secretariat and the Chairs will take into account the experience of these meetings and the lessons from them as we move forward.

I would also like to remind you that you will have additional opportunities to make interventions on the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the other issues we will be discussing during the course of this week when we have our official meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the coming months. I thank you all for your understanding as we continue to adapt to this new way of working.

Party-led review process

Distinguished delegates, it is indeed fitting that the Special Preparatory Sessions for the Subsidiary Body on Implementation begin with this important item, on review of implementation. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered review mechanisms for the Convention and requested me to prepare for, and organize, the testing of a Party-led review process, including through an open-ended forum to be held at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.



At this special virtual session, we will hear from five Parties representing the five United Nations regional groups — Ethiopia, Finland, Guyana, Poland and Sri Lanka — which have kindly agreed to participate in the trial phase of the country-by-country review process. Each of the five Parties has prepared a review report, complementing their sixth national reports, on their efforts to implement the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and each will engage in an exchange of questions and answers to provide further insights.

I would like to sincerely thank these five Parties for their willingness to take the stage today. I would also like to thank the other Parties that have read the review reports and have sent in questions for the session.

The emerging insights and perspectives provided during this trial phase of the Open-ended Forum will be essential for advancing the consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of review mechanisms at its third meeting. But, from a broader perspective, I am confident that these reports will also provide the global community with tangible evidence of genuine progress towards biodiversity conservation and protection. They will show the world that we are well on our way towards establishing a new relationship with our vital natural capital – one that is safer, healthier, more sustainable and inclusive. They will also help us to better understand some of the difficulties we face, so that we may continually improve on our efforts.

I look forward to today's and tomorrow's presentation and discussions. I am sure this experience will be valuable when Parties meet for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and further address options for an enhanced review mechanism under item 9 of the provisional agenda.

Resource mobilization

This special virtual session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will also consider the issue of resource mobilization – an issue as complex and challenging as it is vital. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties affirmed that resource mobilization would be an integral part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and requested me to contract a panel of experts to prepare reports on issues related to the development of the resource mobilization component, which will help inform the work of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Conference of the Parties.

Tomorrow, we will invite the panel to present its important work on resource mobilization and answer your questions on this issue. The availability of adequate and predictable financial resources is essential for effective implementation. However, ensuring resource mobilization will in turn require us to bring about transformative, inclusive and equitable change across all economies and society at large. While this challenge may seem formidable, I am optimistic that the insights provided by the panel, along with the thoughtful perspectives provided tomorrow, can put us well on our way to collectively charting a path forward and helping the world build more resilient economic systems.

Ladies and gentlemen, I look forward to hearing your inputs on these important topics.

Thank you.
