



Convention on
Biological Diversity

**STATEMENT BY MS. ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AT THE OPENING OF THE
INFORMAL SESSION IN PREPARATION FOR SBI-3
8 MARCH 2021**

Madam Chair,
Delegates, colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to this virtual informal session in preparation for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Together with my colleagues at the Secretariat, I am honoured to support you as we take another step on the road to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the adoption later this year of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank you, and the Bureau, for your excellent leadership in preparing for this informal session. Fortunately, where some people see obstacles, you see opportunities. I am confident that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will advance its work under your guidance.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Government of Canada, our host country, as well as the Government of the United Kingdom, for their generous financial support, which has enabled us to address the additional costs incurred for our virtual meetings, including the services of our excellent team of interpreters, and for the training sessions held last week. I am confident that all participants share my appreciation for your unwavering support, which will help us maintain momentum towards the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and further the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The number of participants assembled for this meeting is impressive. More than 1,832 participants have registered, representing 130 countries and many organizations. I trust that a majority if not all of them have joined us virtually and thus look forward to their active participation, which is essential for engaging and advancing equally the three objectives of the Convention and those of its Protocols without leaving anyone behind.

Likewise, it is my pleasure to note that this meeting begins on International Women's Day, the theme of which is "Women in Leadership – Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World". Without the full and effective engagement of women and girls with full support and recognition by men in processes related to biodiversity, we cannot hope to achieve the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.

In recognition of this day, we are honoured to have a keynote speaker, Ms. Isabella Teixeira, who will provide us with an opening address on the importance of women's leadership in our efforts to protect biodiversity.



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



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Dear participants,

Hopefully, many of you were able to attend the information session webinars we had organized earlier on in the year in preparation for this informal meeting. The webinars presented extensive information on a range of important topics that will have a major impact on the work of the Convention and its Protocols.

The complementary implementation of the Convention and its Protocols is important to ensure that benefits are unlocked and flow to all stakeholders, thus creating the enabling environment for conservation and sustainable use.

As you may recall, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation was established with an objective to review progress in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, equally to assess improvements in support of their implementation, and appraise advancement in the achievement of targets established under the Convention. The third session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will therefore provide us with an opportunity to move ahead on these important undertakings, and I look forward to hearing your views.

Please allow me to briefly highlight the substantive agenda items before us today and in the coming days:

1. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

Under Item 3, we will review progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020, and make recommendations to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This item includes a review of implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, as this assessment has contributed to the development of a draft outline of a post-2020 gender plan of action, presented for consideration under item 5.

2. Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

We will review an analysis and synthesis of information for the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, as well as a final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol for the period 2011-2020. The recommendations will then be submitted to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol for consideration at its tenth meeting. This process will help the meeting of the Parties direct its policy in support of areas where implementation needs strengthening.

3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Furthermore, your inputs will contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as prepared by the Open-ended Working Group, and complement it with elements related to means to support and review implementation, including matters related to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols and the Working Group on Article 8(j) dealing with traditional knowledge.

This item will also enable the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to review the post-2020 Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol and its post-2020 capacity-building action plan.

In addition, this plan is complementary to, and anchored in, the post-2020 framework and demonstrates the continued commitment to ensuring the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, taking into account risks to human health. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the post-2020 gender and communication plans.

4. Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Resource mobilization and financial mechanism issues are both complex and challenging, as well as essential for reaching our biodiversity goals.

With regard to resource mobilization, we will review the outputs of the panel of experts on resource mobilization, including their contribution towards the resource mobilization component of the post-2020 framework, and begin our work towards a recommendation for the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties.

With respect to the financial mechanism, we will consider a preliminary report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and begin our work towards recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols regarding their guidance to GEF on a number of important issues.

5. Capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and communication

Under Item 7, our discussions will consider many key issues relating to capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer. These include: a draft long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020; proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation, and for an inclusive process to review such programmes. We will also seek to ensure an effective approach to capacity building under the Nagoya Protocol consistent with the post-2020 framework.

Likewise, we will address the draft elements of the knowledge management component of the post-2020 framework and possible elements of a post-2020 work programme for the clearing-house mechanism.

6. Mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review

There will be an opportunity to discuss options for enhancing mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review, as well as related issues of national planning, with a view to strengthening implementation of the Convention.

7. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

Under item 10, we will review information on the experience of holding concurrent meetings and make recommendations for consideration at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its tenth meeting, and to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fourth meeting.

8. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation

We will discuss strategies to help accelerate and guide the mainstreaming of biodiversity into economic sectors. Under item 11, we will consider a progress report on the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity. We will also include a draft long-term approach to mainstreaming and how to further leverage the engagement of subnational and local governments in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols as well as the post-2020 framework, building on the outcomes of the Edinburgh Process.

9. Key provisions of the Nagoya Protocol

Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is essential for the impactful implementation of the other two objectives of the Convention. There are key provisions of the Nagoya Protocol that are important for ensuring the flow of benefits to all stakeholders. Specifically, you will be invited to provide your views and perspectives on the Protocol's key provisions, with the aim of further unlocking its impactful implementation.

We will equally consider a synthesis of information provided by Parties and other Governments on how specialized international ABS instruments are addressed in their domestic measures and hear their views on a study on specific cases of genetic resources and traditional knowledge that occur in transboundary situations. We will also consider a possible global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism

and take steps towards making a recommendation to the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

10. Administrative and budgetary matters

Finally, we must also address some important administrative and budgetary matters. Under item 14, the Secretariat will provide you with an update on its activities and the status of Trust Funds administered by the Convention and the Protocols.

Closing

Before I close, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my team of Secretariat staff whose diligence and dedication has brought us this far, that we are meeting today with all groundwork preparations done and accomplished. To them all, my sincere appreciation. They have gone the extra mile to support this and other meetings, including the post-2020 biodiversity framework process. This past year has been very trying and challenging, but that did not slow their efforts to support you and the process in every way possible.

I look forward to your interventions on these agenda items. With the support of the Secretariat and the guidance of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, this meeting will provide the necessary support for our formal discussions at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body, leading us on the pathway to the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. I wish you all a successful meeting.

Thank you.
