

Statement by David Cooper
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High-level political forum on sustainable development 2023 – General debate “Building momentum towards the Sustainable Development Goals Summit”
Morning / afternoon sessions between 17 and 20 July 2023, New York

3 minutes (344 words)

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Excellencies,
distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you here today and build momentum towards the Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

As you know, biodiversity is vital in achieving sustainable development.

Biodiversity, the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns that it forms, provides the essential ecosystem services that our societies depend on.

It helps to regulate climate, reduces the impacts of natural hazards and provides us with nutritious and diversified food.

The loss of biodiversity threatens food and water security, it undermines our effort to eradicate poverty and it limits economic growth.

Biodiversity is the lifeline to human health and well-being, and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we will need to successfully curb and reverse biodiversity loss.

We need urgent and effective action to put the planet on a path to recovery, as we have done before. For example, parts of the world have seen a reduction in the rate of forest loss, while the world’s protected area network had expanded to cover 10 per cent of the global ocean and 17 per cent of land and inland waters by the end of 2020.

We can do it again.

Last year, the world adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework – a global response to the biodiversity crisis.

Now we must move from agreement to action.

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The Framework, with its four goals and 23 action targets, requires urgent implementation to see tangible results by 2030.

It is founded on a human rights-based approach and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The Framework calls for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, while also ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The implementation of the Framework will undoubtedly support and contribute to the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We need to galvanize actions across sectors, strengthen partnerships and support integrated policies to accelerate the achievement of global commitments.

Together, we can build a future where we all live in harmony with nature.

Thank you.