



**Opening remarks by
David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization
25-29 September 2023
Kinshasa**

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Vos Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

C'est un grand plaisir d'être avec vous aujourd'hui pour cette réunion importante.

J'aimerais exprimer mon appréciation à Madame la ministre, et à la République démocratique du Congo, pour votre hospitalité.

Votre intérêt à organiser cette réunion à Kinshasa reflète l'importance que votre pays, et les pays d'Afrique en général, attachent au sujet de la mobilisation des ressources.

Il est significatif que nous nous rencontrions ici, en République démocratique du Congo, l'un des pays les plus méga-divers de ce continent hyperdivers, un pays qui abrite les plus vastes étendues de forêts et de tourbières du bassin du Congo. La conservation et l'utilisation durable de ces écosystèmes sont évidemment essentielles pour le bien-être de la population du pays, pour la protection de sa faune et sa flore uniques, et pour la stabilité du climat sur l'ensemble du continent et dans le monde entier.

I would like to welcome all members of this Advisory Group. We have a lot of work to do, but, I believe, we got off to a very good start at the preparatory meeting held on 5 September. My congratulations, and deep thanks, go to the Co-Chairs, Ines Verleye and Patrick Luna, who were elected at that meeting. It goes without saying that the Secretariat is very happy to support you in this task.

The Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contains highly ambitious goals and targets. Ambitious but necessary. Necessary to address the biodiversity crisis and to enable achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The mobilization of financial resources is certainly a key element of our collective response to address the challenges of implementation.

It is imperative that we, as a global community, all work towards implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach.

For that, we need political commitment and, in that respect, Africa is leading the way.

During the recently held African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to acting on environmental and climate issues to promote inclusive wealth creation and protect the well-being of the people of Africa.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was highlighted in the Ministerial Declaration, and the leaders pledged to make concerted efforts toward implementing the Framework by revising and enhancing national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

One large step towards moving the Framework from agreement to action was achieved with the ratification and launch of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund of the Global Environment Facility.

The Fund is uniquely dedicated to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, its goals and its targets.

The new fund includes a 25 per cent allocation for international financial institutions, which provides an opportunity to leverage further resources from the public and private sectors. It also includes an enhanced allocation for least developed countries and small island developing States. Moreover, 20 per cent of the funds will be channelled to support activities for indigenous peoples and local communities, according to their own priorities. The new fund provides an opportunity to receive funding from all sources and to quickly disburse through streamlined procedures.

I welcome the contributions to date from Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and call on other donors to contribute promptly to allow the first work programme to be developed and implemented as soon as possible.

There is also a lot happening in parallel.

Last week in New York, the NBSAP accelerator partnership was launched, led by Colombia and Germany and with support from Germany and Norway, to support implementation of specific priorities to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans identified by countries.

In addition, at the New York Stock exchange last week, the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures launched its recommendations, which is a big step to help implement Target 15 of the Framework.

But major challenges remain. We have only two years to reach achieve our first milestone of mobilizing \$20 billion per year by 2025 – roughly a doubling of previous contributions.

But let us not forget that we did achieve this before – it was one of the successes of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Raising \$200 billion per year from all sources by 2030 is certainly a major challenge. Reaching that target will need an effective strategy for resource mobilization based on a good understanding of the existing financial landscape.

Those are the tasks of this group.

It is my hope that deliberations here will pave the way for tangible solutions, innovative funding mechanisms, and effective partnerships.

The recently held preparatory meeting proved to be engaging. We had the opportunity to listen to various viewpoints shared by members of our Committee.

It is my belief that our Advisory Committee possesses the necessary expertise, knowledge, and capabilities to effectively carry out its assigned responsibilities.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Tout au long de ce processus, nous devons essayer d'apprendre les uns des autres. Essayons de comprendre les perspectives uniques et distinctes de l'autre. En ce faisant, soyons unis en avançant vers nos objectifs.

Créons un objectif commun entre les pays développés et en voie de développement, et entre la société civile, les peuples autochtones et les communautés locales, les entreprises, les femmes, les jeunes et les autres parties prenantes lors de la seizième réunion de la Conférence des Parties.

J'aimerais conclure en exprimant à nouveau toute ma reconnaissance à vous, Madame la Ministre, et à votre équipe, pour vos grands efforts afin de préparer cette réunion.

C'est avec grand plaisir que je passe la parole à Madame la Ministre.

Je vous remercie.