



**Statement by  
David Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**Opening of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

**Nairobi, 21 May 2024**

*Excellencies, distinguished delegates,*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the first meeting of this Body, of course, since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

I would like to welcome Chirra Achalender Reddy in his role as Chair of the Subsidiary Body. I wish you all the strength to lead us through the ambitious agenda that we have this week.

I would also like to thank the people of Kenya, and our colleagues here in Nairobi at the United Nations office, including the United Nations Environment Programme, for welcoming us here.

We have more than 1,300 registered participants for this meeting, coming from over 150 countries. I would like to thank again the 13 Governments that generously provided financial support for the participation of delegates from developing countries, namely, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Thanks also go to Australia, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for helping to secure the support of 14 representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities. As I said last week, of course, we know the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society and other groups in our processes.

We are all here to further strengthen our collective efforts to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework – the Biodiversity Plan. We had a very productive meeting last week, as the Executive Director also just mentioned, and some of the outcomes, of course, will inform the discussions this week.

I would like to express my congratulations again to the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and to all delegates for their hard work last week. Thanks also to the presidency of the Conference of the Parties, China, to our Chair; to the Bureau, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties; and to my colleagues in the Secretariat for the preparations for this meeting.



I would also, however, like to apologize to you, Mr. Chair, to the Bureau and to all delegates for the delay in posting the documents for this meeting. I recognize that this adds to your challenge of preparing for the meeting. I would like to thank the Bureau for their guidance in this regard, and for finding a path forward.

*Distinguished delegates,*

As others have said, this meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation is critical on our path to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Cali, Colombia. Again, we are very grateful to Colombia for hosting our next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

And, as the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties since the adoption of the Biodiversity Plan, this ambitious Plan that provides us with a set of concrete goals and action-oriented targets, we must demonstrate that the Framework is being implemented. We must also make sure that we have all the mechanisms in place to support that implementation and monitor progress towards it.

Later this morning, we will review progress in doing that, in updating the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and setting national targets. Of course, this is an ongoing process. Many countries, all countries, I believe, are engaged in that process, engaged in their communities, ensuing a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach. And, of course, we will also gather again for the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation just before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

I would also like to acknowledge the progress report on the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention, relating to the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional knowledge. Of course, a new programme of work, prepared by the Working Group last November, will be considered at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. And I just want to take the opportunity to note that, this week, on 25 May, we will have some informal discussions, a dialogue, to further enhance common understanding among Parties and observers of the elements of this programme of work, with a view to facilitating, we hope, its consideration at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

As you know, we made great progress here last week in the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and your discussions this week will complement that; looking, as Inger has already outlined, at a number of aspects related to the planning, monitoring and review of the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan. And of course, this work also builds upon the recommendations coming from the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which was held here last September.

We will also have very important discussions on the mobilization of financial resources, on the financial mechanism and on technical and scientific cooperation, among other things. And of course, this work has been prepared through a lot of intersessional work. I want to thank, in particular, the Co-Chairs of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization, Ines Verleye and Patrick Luna, and all members of the Committee, and also all the other advisory groups that have supported the work here.

We will also be looking at cooperation and synergies among various instruments, building on the Bern Process, and I thank Switzerland for hosting and facilitating that, and for always helping us to drive forward that agenda.

We will also be looking at the effectiveness of our processes and our future programme of work as well as at methodologies related to the Nagoya Protocol.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

I think that Parties and partners have demonstrated remarkable commitment to advancing progress towards the implementation of the Framework. One of the most positive outcomes, of course, has been the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the Global Environment Facility, with contributions currently standing at a little over 230 million United States dollars. And now, already nearly half of that, \$110 million, are committed to supporting 24 countries in the preparation of grants covering all aspects of all objectives of the Convention, and substantial contributions are committed to supporting the role of indigenous peoples and local communities.

We have also seen increased engagement with the private sector, facilitated by such initiatives as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.

At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties issued an invitation to other conventions and other organizations to consider endorsing or supporting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the response to that call has been incredibly encouraging, with positive statements and commitments coming from the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Environment Assembly and many convention secretariats, including those of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, many biodiversity-related conventions and, now, also the chemicals-related conventions, that is, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Great support has also come from many organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

I would also like to highlight, of course, the importance and the actions of various stakeholder groups, the youth groups, women's groups and other actors of civil society. All those actions and support are critical for the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that is expected through the new Framework.

There is still a lot to do. We have very ambitious targets to achieve. We are looking forward to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Colombia. I believe in the common sense of purpose that was demonstrated in the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice last week, including in the discussions on digital sequence information. There is a clear determination to succeed. You are demonstrating a clear determination to succeed. Let's work together this week and make further progress. Thank you so much.

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