



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-seventh session

Items 18 (d), (e) and (f) of the provisional agenda\*

### Sustainable development:

**Protection of global climate for present and future  
generations of humankind**

**Implementation of the United Nations Convention to  
Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing  
Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly  
in Africa**

**Convention on Biological Diversity**

## Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions

### Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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\* [A/77/150](#).



# **I. Report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention**

## **A. Introduction**

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [76/205](#), invited the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

## **B. Outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement**

### **1. Summary**

2. The Conference of the Parties, presided over by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was held in Glasgow, from 31 October to 13 November 2021, as follows:

- (a) Twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) Sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;
- (c) Third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;
- (d) Fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice;
- (e) Fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

3. The Conference was attended by 15,975 Government delegates from 194 parties to the Convention, as well as representatives of 1 observer State; 11,001 observers, including those from 31 units of the United Nations Secretariat, 21 specialized agencies and related organizations, 75 intergovernmental organizations and 1,598 non-governmental organizations; and 2,602 media representatives.

4. The Conference took place at a moment when, on the one hand, the urgency of upscaling action on climate change, in both mitigation and adaptation, had become very clear, underpinned by the findings of the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme. On the other hand, the intergovernmental climate change process had clearly been delayed because of the constraints and challenges introduced by the global pandemic, including the postponement of the Conference by a year. These factors created the sense that it was urgent to take action, in particular with regard to keeping the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, especially the 1.5°C goal, within reach. The motto of the Conference, “Keeping 1.5°C alive”, selected by the Conference Presidency, was well chosen in that context and it provided a forceful leading motive underpinning the negotiations.

5. The major, overarching decision of the Conference, the Glasgow Climate Pact, responds strongly to that sense of urgency by calling for the enhancement of ambition in climate action and outlining the most urgent steps that needed to be taken across key climate-related issues. Parties were called upon to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies and the adoption of policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and the phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition. It also resolved to move swiftly with the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and recognized the importance of international collaboration on innovative climate action, including technological advancement, across all actors of society, sectors and regions.

6. The Conference delivered a large number of significant substantive outcomes across all bodies: the Conference of the Parties adopted 23 decisions, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted 10 decisions and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement adopted 24 decisions.

7. The outcomes of the six key substantive negotiation areas were as follows:

(a) With regard to finance, the gap in the fulfilment of the \$100 billion goal and the increased pledges to address the gap in 2022–2023 were acknowledged. The need to mobilize climate finance from all sources to reach the level needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, beyond \$100 billion per year, was confirmed and a decision on a three-year process (ad hoc work programme) for setting a new post-2025 goal on climate finance was taken, with the process to be concluded by 2024;

(b) With regard to adaptation, the urgency of scaling up action and support was recognized, and a two-year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation was established, reflecting Parties' recognition of the importance of such a goal and of the need for guidance on how to assess progress towards the goal;

(c) With regard to loss and damage, the functions of the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with adverse effects of climate change were defined as part of a process to operationalize the network. To help address relevant support, a Glasgow climate dialogue was established to discuss the arrangements for funding for loss and damage over the course of three years;

(d) With regard to mitigation, the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including the reduction of global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases, was recognized. The Conference requested parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions, as necessary, to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances, and decided to convene an annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition from 2022 onward;

(e) Agreement on three decisions on voluntary cooperation instruments under article 6 of the Paris Agreement and a decision with guidance for operationalizing the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the enhanced transparency framework under article 13 of the Paris Agreement, along with some other relevant decisions, allowed for the closing of the pending chapters of the Paris Agreement rulebook, thus enabling full implementation of all parts of the Paris Agreement, including, where relevant, transition from the market-based mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol.

8. The Conference recognized the important role of non-party stakeholders, including civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, youth, children, local and regional governments and other stakeholders, in contributing to progress towards the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement. The work of the improved Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition and the leadership and actions of the high-level climate champions were welcomed.

## **2. High-level segment/events of the Conference of the Parties**

9. The first part of the joint high-level segment of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement was held on 1 and 2 November, as part of the World Leaders Summit. The resumed segment was held on 9 and 10 November.

10. At the opening of the World Leaders Summit, statements were made by prominent guests Yrsa Daley-Ward; the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland, Boris Johnson; a young climate activist, Brianna Fruean; the Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Prince of Wales; the People's Advocate of the Conference of the Parties, David Attenborough; the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley; the Prime Minister of Italy, Mario Draghi; and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

11. During the high-level segment, 176 national statements were delivered, of which 113 were by Heads of State, 3 by Vice-Presidents, 2 by Deputy Prime Ministers, and 57 by ministers or representatives of the parties.

12. Statements were made by representatives of 27 observers, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the areas of business and industry and the environment, farmers, indigenous peoples organizations, local governments, municipal authorities and intergovernmental and regional organizations, as well as research and independent, trade union, women and gender, youth and faith-based NGOs.

13. The Conference of the Parties convened a high-level event on global climate action, which provided opportunities for strengthening high-level engagement in the implementation of policy options and climate action, for taking stock of progress in sectoral breakthroughs derived from the Climate Action Pathways and in the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns, and for effective high-level engagement of dignitaries of the parties, international organizations and non-party stakeholders.

14. Under the guidance of the Presidency, two high-level events on climate finance were convened during the Conference: the fourth high-level ministerial dialogue on long-term climate finance and the first high-level ministerial dialogue on arrangements related to article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement. The dialogues brought together ministers of environment, finance and development and senior officials and heads of multilateral and bilateral finance institutions and the private sector.

15. In considering the climate finance delivery plan developed by Germany and Canada, which was recognized as contributing to enhanced transparency and predictability, participants expressed disappointment at the failure of developed countries to deliver the \$100 billion goal, which had resulted in a lack of trust by developing countries. The dialogue on long-term climate finance, in particular, provided space for making and recognizing announcements and pledges by developed countries to increase their public climate finance contributions beyond current levels. Most notably, the record financial contributions for the Adaptation Fund announced prior to the dialogue were recognized as a critical step towards increasing the

predictability and clarity of adaptation finance, while it was also recognized that finance for adaptation continued to lag behind mitigation finance. Participants also discussed the need for scaled-up and accessible finance to meet the needs and priorities of developing countries.

16. The dialogue on arrangements related to article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement provided a forum for exchanging views on progress towards enhancing predictability and clarity in the mobilization and delivery of climate finance to developing countries. Participants discussed future trends in climate finance mobilization, including the need for increased flows from all sources, notably for adaptation, and efforts to make finance flows consistent with a path towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

### **3. Outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties**

17. The following decisions were adopted:

- (a) 1/CP.26: Glasgow Climate Pact;
- (b) 2/CP.26: Report of the Adaptation Committee (for 2019, 2020 and 2021);
- (c) 3/CP.26: National adaptation plans;
- (d) 4/CP.26: Long-term climate finance;
- (e) 5/CP.26: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance;
- (f) 6/CP.26: Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund;
- (g) 7/CP.26: Report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to GEF;
- (h) 8/CP.26: Compilation and synthesis of, and summary report on the in-session workshop on, biennial communications of information related to article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement;
- (i) 9/CP.26: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism;
- (j) 10/CP.26: Review of the constitution of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- (k) 11/CP.26: Second review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- (l) 12/CP.26: Annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2020 and 2021;
- (m) 13/CP.26: Fifth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition under the Convention;
- (n) 14/CP.26: Revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts;
- (o) 15/CP.26: Extension of the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group;
- (p) 16/CP.26: Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform;
- (q) 17/CP.26: Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
- (r) 18/CP.26: Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment;
- (s) 19/CP.26: Matters relating to the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures;

- (t) 20/CP.26: Gender and climate change;
- (u) 21/CP.26: Dates and venues of future sessions;
- (v) 22/CP.26: Programme budget for the biennium 2022–2023;
- (w) 23/CP.26: Administrative, financial and institutional matters.

**4. Outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol**

18. The following decisions were adopted:

- (a) 1/CMP.16: Glasgow Climate Pact;
- (b) 2/CMP.16: Guidance relating to the clean development mechanism;
- (c) 3/CMP.16: Report of the Adaptation Fund Board for 2020 and 2021;
- (d) 4/CMP.16: Fourth review of the Adaptation Fund;
- (e) 5/CMP.16: Fourth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under the Kyoto Protocol;
- (f) 6/CMP.16: Fifth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition under the Kyoto Protocol;
- (g) 7/CMP.16: Matters relating to the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures;
- (h) 8/CMP.16: Programme budget for the biennium 2022–2023;
- (i) 9/CMP.16: Budget for the international transaction log;
- (j) 10/CMP.16: Administrative, financial and institutional matters.

**5. Outcomes of the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement**

19. The following decisions were adopted:

- (a) 1/CMA.3: Glasgow Climate Pact;
- (b) 2/CMA.3: Guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement;
- (c) 3/CMA.3: Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement;
- (d) 4/CMA.3: Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in article 6, paragraph 8, of Paris Agreement;
- (e) 5/CMA.3: Guidance for operationalizing the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the enhanced transparency framework referred to in article 13 of the Paris Agreement;
- (f) 6/CMA.3: Common time frames for nationally determined contributions referred to in article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement;
- (g) 7/CMA.3: Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation;
- (h) 8/CMA.3: Report of the Adaptation Committee for 2019, 2020 and 2021;
- (i) 9/CMA.3: New collective quantified goal on climate finance;
- (j) 10/CMA.3: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance;

- (k) 11/CMA.3: Guidance to the Green Climate Fund;
- (l) 12/CMA.3: Guidance to the Global Environment Facility;
- (m) 13/CMA.3: Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund;
- (n) 14/CMA.3: Compilation and synthesis of, and summary report on the in-session workshop on, biennial communications of information related to article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement;
- (o) 15/CMA.3: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to support implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- (p) 16/CMA.3: Alignment between processes pertaining to the review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the periodic assessment referred to in paragraph 69 of decision 1/CP.21;
- (q) 17/CMA.3: First periodic assessment referred to in paragraph 69 of decision 1/CP.21;
- (r) 18/CMA.3: Annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2020 and 2021;
- (s) 19/CMA.3: Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
- (t) 20/CMA.3: Modalities and procedures for operation and use of a public registry referred to in article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement;
- (u) 21/CMA.3: Modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement;
- (v) 22/CMA.3: Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment;
- (w) 23/CMA.3: Matters relating to the forum on impact of the implementation of response measures;
- (x) 24/CMA.3: Rules of procedure of the committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance referred to in article 15, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement.

## 6. Conclusions/recommendations

20. The General Assembly may wish:

- (a) To welcome the outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, presided over by the Government of the United Kingdom, held in Glasgow, from 31 October to 13 November 2021;
- (b) To urge parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified the Paris Agreement to expedite their domestic procedures and to promptly deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, in order to ensure its universality;
- (c) To urge parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions and to respond swiftly to the calls for enhanced climate action in the Glasgow Climate Pact;
- (d) To call upon parties which have not yet submitted their long-term low-emissions development strategies, national adaptation plans or adaptation communications to accelerate work on their preparation and submit them to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(e) To invite the Executive Secretary to continue to report to it on the work of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

## **II. Report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

### **A. Introduction**

21. In its resolution [76/206](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

### **B. Outcome of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention**

22. The fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022. The Conference was attended by more than 7,000 participants, including representatives of 133 parties to the Convention, 23 United Nations entities, 33 intergovernmental and 116 civil society organizations and more than 54 ministers and Heads of State.

#### **1. Summit of the Heads of State and Government**

23. On the invitation of the President of Côte d'Ivoire, a summit of Heads of States and Government was held on 9 May 2022. The summit was attended by several Heads of State and Government, the President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Chairman of the African Union, as well as special envoys of presidents and representatives of civil society organizations. Parties to the Convention also attended at the highest political level.

24. The objective of the summit was to infuse political momentum into the deliberations of the parties and advance drought preparedness and land restoration as essential commitments to accelerate progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 and national voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. The summit adopted the Abidjan Call, in which leaders urged giving the highest priority to the issue of drought and reinforcing the commitment towards achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030. The Call also aimed at raising ambition for investments in large-scale land restoration projects and programmes, which also help countries and communities prepare for and mitigate the impacts of drought. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire also presented its Abidjan Legacy Programme, an ambitious multi-partner initiative aimed at boosting long-term environmental sustainability across major commodity value chains while protecting and restoring forests and lands and improving communities' resilience to climate change.

#### **2. Gender Caucus**

25. Hosted by the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, with the participation of the Deputy Secretary-General, the former President of Finland, high-level representatives of United Nations agencies and national institutions, the high-level event took place on 9 May 2022. After the opening, two sessions co-chaired by Canada and Côte d'Ivoire



were held focusing on the Gender Caucus structure and future priorities and sharing promising practices and local solutions. The Caucus aimed at providing a space to enhance knowledge, including by providing new evidence on issues affecting women in the context of desertification, land degradation and drought, among policymakers attending the Conference of the Parties, civil society, international development actors and all other participants. The Caucus issued the Abidjan Declaration on Achieving Gender Equality for Successful Land Restoration. It called for strengthening efforts to promote gender equality as a means of accelerating land restoration by, inter alia, strengthening and enforcing legal frameworks for women's access to land and control over land and actively working to close the gender gap.

### **3. Proceedings and key outcomes of the Conference of the Parties**

26. On 10 May, a ministerial segment was organized, which included two interactive dialogues and three parallel high-level round tables. The ministerial segment adopted the Land, Life and Legacy Declaration. Two open dialogues were also organized. Two themes featured in the discussions, namely, "Lands we use, lands we protect, lands we own – opportunities and solutions to equity and equality" and "Agroecological approaches and regenerative agricultural practices as a solution to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality and addressing desertification, land degradation and drought issues".

27. The Conference of the Parties adopted 37 decisions and 1 resolution during the session. This included decision 7/COP.15, in which the Conference of the Parties acknowledged the importance of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention and established an intergovernmental working group to oversee the midterm evaluation process and present its findings and recommendations to the parties for their consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Other important decisions included 13/COP.15, in which the Conference of the Parties recognized that Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 and the setting of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets had created a strong momentum for the implementation of the Convention, and called for the conduct of a needs assessment to determine the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention.

28. In decision 12/COP.15, the Conference of the Parties acknowledged the pivotal role that the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund could play in achieving the strategic objectives of the Convention and serving as a successful, replicable model of collaboration between the public and private sector and called for the provision of technical pre-investment support to country project developers. The Conference of the Parties also welcomed the support provided by the secretariat in effectively assisting countries in their voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting and called for assistance to parties in developing the necessary tools to translate the voluntary land degradation neutrality targets into concrete actions and identifying innovative resources for promoting the development of large-scale national, multi-country and subregional transformative projects.

29. Taking into consideration the urgency of the problems and consequences related to drought worldwide, the parties assessed the way forward for drought preparedness and resilience globally, including: (a) concrete commitments to pursue effective policy and advocacy, impact mitigation measures, capacity-building, partnerships and sharing of knowledge and experience; (b) the scaling up of drought impact mitigation in development efforts – early warning, monitoring, response, resilience-building and sustainable recovery; (c) options for strengthened institutional arrangements, effective collaboration, coordination and increased investments in drought risk mitigation measures and for the secretariat of the Convention to take the lead on drought matters at the global level.

30. The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 23/COP.15, by which it established a new Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought during the triennium 2022–2024 to identify and evaluate all options to effectively manage drought under the Convention, including supporting a shift from reactive to proactive drought management.

31. The Conference of the Parties also addressed the issue of sand and dust storms. In its decision 26/COP.15, it urged a proactive approach to enhance cooperation at all levels to address the causes and impacts of sand and dust storms and called for the organization of a science-policy dialogue to develop guidance and policies to address sand and dust storms.

32. The Conference of the Parties also decided that a youth engagement strategy would be developed to ensure stronger, effective and meaningful participation of youth in the meetings and processes of the Convention.

### **C. Global celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought and outreach activities**

33. Declared by the General Assembly in 1995, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on 17 June to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification, land degradation and drought.

34. This year the global celebrations took place against the backdrop of severe droughts in the Horn of Africa, Chile, China, Mexico, Morocco and the United States of America, and its theme “Rising up from drought together” was intended to galvanize action to better prepare and respond to growing drought worldwide and build long-term resilience.

35. The global observance was hosted by Spain and included a high-level event at the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid on 17 June. Among the notable speakers were the Secretary-General, the President of Spain, the President of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary of the Convention and Patricia Kombo, Land Hero from Kenya.

36. As part of the global drought land campaign launched by the secretariat of the Convention in the lead-up to the celebrations, an information booth was set up in the centre of Madrid to raise public awareness of the impacts of drought. In addition, an event was organized by the Biodiversity Foundation in cooperation with the Basque Culinary Centre which brought together top chefs and experts to discuss the challenges of food production in drought-prone areas. An opinion piece co-authored by the Vice-President of Spain and the Executive Secretary of the Convention was also published in several Spanish media outlets.

37. Other commemorative events took place across the world, with over 40 events in 35 countries.

### **D. Status of land restoration on the path to achieving land degradation neutrality**

38. The second edition of *Global Land Outlook* was published ahead of the Conference of the Parties, generating scientific evidence and political momentum on the importance of accelerating action to address land degradation. The report indicated that up to 40 per cent of the planet’s land is degraded, directly affecting half of humanity and threatening nearly half of global gross domestic product (\$44 trillion).

39. In the report, it is projected that, if business continues as usual, there will be additional degradation of an area almost the size of South America by 2050. To achieve climate and biodiversity goals and to guarantee water and food security, degraded land must be restored and global land-based solutions must be implemented on a massive scale.

40. Globally, 129 countries have pledged to establish national voluntary targets and relevant measures to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030. One hundred and seven parties have successfully completed this voluntary process and 100 have already published their national reports on the website of the Convention.

41. A second phase of the target-setting programme for land degradation neutrality is also under way and will assist countries that have already set voluntary national targets to review, evaluate and refine their targets. Tools will be made available to aid practical land-use decision-making by drawing on geospatial technology and land-use planning tools and by helping to ensure that targets are gender-responsive and time-bound.

42. Since 2018, 74 countries have participated in transformative projects and programmes and are aiming to develop national, regional or subregional projects (65 concept notes in total) to implement comprehensive processes to achieve land degradation neutrality. The transformative projects and programmes workstream and portfolio to date includes:

(a) Fifty-nine national projects involving 55 countries (19 national project concept notes have been developed, 7 are under development and 33 are still to be developed);

(b) Six regional or multi-country projects involving 41 countries (3 regional concept notes have been developed, 2 are under development and 1 is still to be developed).

43. The cumulative total of 22 concept notes that have been developed. To date 10 project concept notes have been approved to access development funds (9 national concept notes and 1 regional concept note). This includes three projects that are now under implementation.

44. The leaders of the Group of 20, meeting virtually in November 2020, adopted a Leader's Declaration committing to the achievement of a 50 per cent reduction of degraded land by 2040 on a voluntary basis and launched the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats to prevent, halt and reverse land degradation. This will support the sharing of knowledge and best practices by showcasing publicly available data and information on degraded lands and conservation/restoration efforts. The Initiative will enhance support for the implementation of current commitments for sustainable land management and restoration and seek additional voluntary commitments from participating countries. To facilitate implementation, an Initiative Coordination Office, hosted by the secretariat of the Convention, has been established and a workplan is being developed. Early activities are also being implemented in Indonesia, under the Group of 20 Presidency.

## **E. Latest developments on drought policies**

45. Over the past two years, the secretariat has supported over 70 countries in developing and implementing targeted national drought plans focused on preparedness, response and resilience. Through the interactive Drought Toolbox, people and communities anywhere in the world can access multiple case studies and other resources.

## **F. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility**

46. The collaboration between the secretariats of GEF and the Convention has continued to advance steadily. Representatives of the secretariat of the Convention participated in the two most recent meetings of the Council of GEF and were closely involved in the discussions on the eighth replenishment of GEF.

47. Representatives of the secretariat of GEF attended the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, where they presented the report of GEF on the support provided to parties to fund implementation activities. Heeding the call made by the General Assembly to ensure a robust replenishment of GEF in general and the land degradation focal area in particular, GEF donors increased resources allocated to this focal area. The land degradation focal area has been increased by 30 per cent, reaching \$618 million. In its decision 9/COP15, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the strong eighth replenishment of GEF and the robust increase in land degradation focal area resources. The Conference of the Parties provided GEF with strong guidance on drought. It requested GEF, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially with respect to strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems and capacity-building. It also invited GEF, within its mandate, to assess the feasibility of establishing a focal area for drought to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought.

## **G. Partnerships**

48. The secretariat of the Convention has a variety of partnerships with organizations and institutions that have convergent or complementary missions to address desertification, land degradation and drought. The number of parties that have completed their voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting and national drought plans has increased, leading to a growing demand for assistance with the preparation of investment-ready project proposals. The secretariat has been supporting parties in this regard and, to date, 65 requests for support and project ideas have been submitted for further development into project concept notes and proposals. To meet this growing demand for project preparation support, the secretariat is establishing strategic partnerships with relevant agencies, including to address financing to support project preparation. To that end, a project preparation partnership was launched at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to serve as a global clearing house. It will work with a range of partners to support the preparation and funding of projects addressing desertification, land degradation and drought, land tenure, land governance and other land-based issues, with a focus on encouraging gender responsiveness and assisting the most vulnerable populations.

49. To support private sector investment decisions, a partnership has been forged with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development in the development of a business investment approach to soil health. The approach involves three stages: (a) assessment; (b) identification of investment targets; and (c) development of an investment plan, including monitoring and reporting. The work also includes a toolkit for the private sector with step-by-step guidance to integrate soil health into investment decisions.

50. Partnerships have also been established with the private sector and other stakeholders in developing the Great Green Wall Sourcing Challenge launched during the Green Business Forum of the Conference of the Parties and supporting the World Economic Forum's Trillion Trees: the Sahel and the Great Green Wall – Uplink challenge.

## H. Observations and recommendations

51. Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 and the setting of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets have created a strong momentum for the implementation of the Convention. Land restoration is taking root in all regions. The international community is witnessing the beginning of a large-scale land restoration movement. Restoring degraded lands generates revenue for poor populations, brings more food to the hungry and to the markets, restores ecosystems and biodiversity and enhances resilience to the climate crisis by sequestering huge quantities of carbon from the atmosphere and bringing carbon where it belongs, in the soil. In this respect, the Conference of the Parties committed to accelerating the restoration of one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030 by improving data-gathering and monitoring to track progress against the achievement of land restoration commitments and establishing a new partnership model for large-scale integrated landscape investment programmes.

52. The Conference of the Parties decided to boost drought resilience by identifying the expansion of drylands; improving national policies and early warning, monitoring and assessment; learning and sharing knowledge; building partnerships and coordinating action; and mobilizing drought finance to support a shift from reactive to proactive drought management.

53. The General Assembly may wish to take note of the progress made in large-scale land restoration and support the policy changes on addressing drought. It may also wish to encourage Member States to address forced migration and displacement driven by desertification and land degradation by creating social and economic opportunities that increase rural resilience and livelihood stability and by mobilizing resources, including from the diaspora, for land restoration projects. The Assembly may also wish to support the decision by the Conference of the Parties to improve women's involvement in land management as important enablers for effective land restoration, by addressing commonly encountered land tenure challenges by people in vulnerable situations and collecting gender-disaggregated data on the impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought. Finally, the Assembly may wish to send a strong message to youth and support the decision of the Conference of the Parties on promoting decent land-based jobs for youth and land-based youth entrepreneurship and strengthening youth participation in the Convention processes.

## III. Report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

### A. Introduction

54. In its resolution [76/207](#) on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution, including on the potential link between coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and biodiversity and the implications and recommendations for building back better.

### B. Part I of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

55. Part I of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in Kunming, China, from 11 to 15 October 2021, with the participation of several global leaders, including the Presidents of China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France and the Russian

Federation, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and the Secretary-General, and over 2,918 delegates, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. The high-level segment was convened on 12 and 13 October 2021. The parties committed to negotiating an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework that could bend the curve of biodiversity loss. A number of important initiatives and commitments to fast-track the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework were also announced, including the establishment of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and an extension of funding for the Japan Biodiversity Fund. A coalition of financial institutions, with assets of over €12 trillion, also announced commitments to protect and restore biodiversity through its activities and investments. GEF, in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund and the United Nations Environment Programme, announced that it would provide financial and technical support to developing countries to fast-track preparations for the rapid implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Part I of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties also set the stage for the further development and finalization of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, addressed critical areas of work, adopted an interim integrated budget for 2022 for the Convention and its Protocols and reviewed progress by the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

### **C. Preparations for part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention**

56. Part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 5 to 17 December 2022, under the leadership of China, as President of the meeting, with the logo and the theme of the fifteenth meeting maintained. It will include a high-level segment to be convened and led by China. To prepare for part II of the meeting and contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, meetings of the Convention's subsidiary bodies have been held.

#### **1. Part II of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**

57. Part II of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice met in person in Geneva from 14 to 27 March 2022. It was among the most highly attended meetings of the Subsidiary Body, with more than 1,100 participants from 151 parties and over 800 participants from civil society organizations and other stakeholders in attendance.

58. At the meeting, the Subsidiary Body built on its work at the informal meeting held in February 2021 and its first formal session held in May-June 2021, both of which were held virtually. By the end of the first formal session, all the agenda items had been reviewed through a first-round exchange of views. Seven plenary sessions were held, interspersed with meetings of contact groups. By the end of the meeting, the Subsidiary Body had adopted 10 recommendations to be considered at part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including a recommendation on the proposed monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and nine other recommendations addressing, inter alia, the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*; the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; synthetic biology; soil biodiversity; biodiversity and health; invasive alien species; the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity; and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. The Subsidiary Body also prepared one recommendation to the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on risk assessment and risk management.

59. The Subsidiary Body also requested the Executive Secretary to organize a technical meeting on indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, (recommendation 24/2) and to facilitate consultations on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (recommendations 24/9 and 24/10), prior to part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## **2. Part II of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

60. Part II of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation was held in person in Geneva from 14 to 29 March 2022. The meeting concluded the work initiated at part I of the third meeting, which was held online in May-June 2021. Parties adopted 19 recommendations, many of which will be crucial for the swift implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensuring that agreements are turned into action on the ground.

61. The results of the meeting will contribute to the next round of discussions on the new framework, especially on issues relating to mobilization of resources for biodiversity, a mechanism to review the implementation of the new framework, and communications and gender in the context of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Delegates also adopted key recommendations on enabling conditions, responsibility and transparency, capacity-building and development, knowledge management, technology and technology transfer, as well as options to enhance planning, reporting and review, mainstreaming, a new gender plan of action and a new strategy for communications, outreach and cooperation.

62. In addition, delegates reviewed progress in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits, as well as the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions related to traditional knowledge.

63. The recommendations approved by the Subsidiary Body will be further considered at part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## **3. Preparations for fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol**

64. Preparations for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol are well under way. Three preparatory meetings took place concurrently in person in Geneva in March 2022, following a first preparatory meeting, which was held virtually in 2021. The third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation allowed parties to the Protocol to exchange views on key topics for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, including consideration of specialized international access and benefit-sharing instruments in the context of article 4, paragraph 4, of the Nagoya Protocol and on a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol). In addition, the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice advanced consideration of elements contributing to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which will also guide the post-2020 implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Lastly, the third and fourth meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework made good progress towards a solution for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from digital sequence information on the use of genetic resources.

65. Moreover, to further inform the parties and move towards resolving the divergence of views among them, an informal co-chairs' advisory group on digital

sequence information on genetic resources was established and held five sessions between September and November 2021.

66. A campaign to raise awareness on access and benefit-sharing and on the contribution of access and benefit-sharing to sustainable development was held between October 2021 and April 2022 on five social media platforms. This resulted in four interviews held with key partners and significant visibility and engagement on social media on access and benefit-sharing and on digital sequence information.

#### **4. Preparations for tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

67. Part I of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol was held online from 11 to 15 October 2021. Part II will be held in person in December 2022.

68. A total of 132 parties to the Cartagena Protocol attended part I of the meeting. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol decided to address only two substantive matters: the report of the compliance committee, which was noted for further deliberation at part II of the meeting, and decision CP-10/1 on the budget for the integrated programme of work of the secretariat.

69. Issues relating to the Cartagena Protocol also came up at part II of the third meeting of Subsidiary Body on Implementation, which adopted recommendations relating to the post-2020 implementation plan and capacity-building action plan, as well as the fourth assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol. At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice also considered some issues relating to the Cartagena Protocol and made recommendations on a programme of work on risk assessment and risk management, which will be considered during part II of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

#### **5. Update on the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

70. The Supplementary Protocol entered into force on 5 March 2018. Issues relating to the implementation of the Supplementary Protocol will be considered at part II of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol. Only parties to the Supplementary Protocol will be involved in the decision-taking process, pursuant to article 14, paragraph 1, of the Supplementary Protocol. One of the major issues that will be taken up is a study on financial security mechanisms under the Supplementary Protocol that has been peer reviewed and finalized during the period under review.

### **D. Preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

71. Since its inception, the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework has met four times. The first meeting was held in August 2019 in Nairobi and the second was held in February 2020 in Rome. The Working Group held its third meeting in two parts in order to advance the work despite the then-ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The first part was held virtually from 23 August to 3 September 2021; the second part was held in a hybrid format in Geneva, from 14 to 29 March 2022, in conjunction and concurrently with the resumed sessions of twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The fourth meeting of the Working Group was held in Nairobi from 21 to 26 June 2022 in Nairobi.



The fifth meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada, just before part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in December 2022.

72. In January 2020, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, with the support of the secretariat, launched the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The draft was updated and revised to take into account comments and inputs from parties and stakeholders and issued as the first draft of the framework in July 2020. The first draft served as the basis for negotiations during the third meeting of the Working Group. At the second part of the third meeting of the Working Group, parties and stakeholders significantly advanced the draft text of the framework, with further refinements to the text being made at the fourth meeting, in June 2022. Following planned intersessional work, the Working Group will meet for a fifth and final time immediately before the start of part II of fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to finalize the draft framework for adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

73. At the second part of the third meeting and the fourth meeting, the Working Group also made significant progress on the issue of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and a decision on this issue is expected to be adopted at part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

74. As the text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is being negotiated, important work is being undertaken by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to produce a robust monitoring framework and review mechanism. It is envisaged that this mechanism will enhance transparency and responsibility by enabling periodic joint stocktaking of progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

75. Given the delays in implementing the previous Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and to make up for time lost owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an urgent need for early, inclusive and effective implementation of post-2020 framework as soon as it is adopted. Significant resources will be required to achieve this, including financial, capacity-building and development, knowledge management, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer resources. Envisaged as a framework for all, the success of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will rely on universal implementation and effective engagement of all stakeholders across government and society in a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

## **E. Follow up to General Assembly resolution 76/207**

76. The issue of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health was taken up at part I of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the subsidiary bodies. At part I of the fifteenth meeting, ministers and heads of delegations committed to increasing the application of ecosystem-based approaches to address biodiversity loss, promote health and contribute to addressing other challenges and enhancing the One Health approach and other holistic approaches. They also committed to ensuring that post-pandemic recovery policies, programmes and plans contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and promote sustainable and inclusive development.

77. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice considered an agenda item on biodiversity and health and a draft global action plan on biodiversity and health and made recommendations on actions relating to preparation of targeted messages and an updated draft global action plan, which will be considered at part II of the fifteenth meeting.

78. In addition, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity contributed to the establishment of a multi-partner trust fund, the Nature for Health

Fund, which will support fast-tracked implementation of the global action plan on biodiversity and health to be developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Fund brings together United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society groups in the field of environment and health. Following the announcement of the establishment of the Fund at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the secretariat of the Convention is actively engaged in the inception phase being led by consortium partners.

79. The secretariat of the Convention also contributed to the consultative process on COVID-19 and the environment led by the United Nations Environment Management Group and its subsequent report, entitled “Inclusive green recovery: an essential post-COVID-19 paradigm shift to recover better”. The report sets out five priority areas for a green recovery. The secretariat of the Convention continues to raise the importance of a biodiversity-inclusive One Health approach, through continued engagement with its partners across the health-environment nexus. The secretariat is also following meetings of the intergovernmental negotiating body to draft and negotiate a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention.

## **F. International Day for Biological Diversity**

80. The International Day for Biological Diversity was commemorated on 22 May 2022 under the slogan “Building a shared future for all life”. Building on the 2020 and 2021 themes, “Our solutions are in nature” and “We’re part of the solution #ForNature”, respectively, the 2022 campaign was a call to action and it communicated the importance of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in delivering transformative change. As part of a comprehensive communications strategy, several days leading up to and following the Day were dedicated to 22 specific actions by individuals, businesses, cities, peacebuilders, athletes and others. A number of commemorative events were organized at the national and global level by 152 parties, 13 United Nations entities and 25 other organizations.

81. Convention on Biological Diversity social media accounts shared a total of 519 posts in the week leading up to International Day for Biodiversity, resulting in 2 million impressions. As expected during the annual observance of the Day, content reach far exceeded average figures, while engagement rates were equal to or better than long-term averages.

82. The communications assets created for the Day were a hit with social media users. Posts sharing the logo customization tool and the downloadable posters and virtual meeting backgrounds performed well in terms of both reach and engagement and across several platforms. A Trello board was created to share these and other materials and messaging with the biodiversity communications flotilla group and other partners, helping to amplify the campaign beyond what was shared on Convention platforms.

## **G. Status of ratifications of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols**

83. The present status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols is as follows:

(a) Convention on Biological Diversity: 195 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have deposited their instruments of ratification, accession, acceptance, approval or succession;

(b) Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity: 172 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have deposited their instruments of ratification, accession, acceptance, approval or succession;

(c) Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity: 136 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have deposited their instruments of ratification, accession, acceptance, approval or succession;

(d) Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: 48 parties and 1 regional economic integration organization have deposited their instruments of ratification, accession, acceptance, approval or succession.

## H. Recommendations

84. The General Assembly may wish:

(a) To call on all parties to the Convention, United Nations agencies and all other stakeholders to effectively engage in the negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure that it is transformative, innovative and ambitious in order to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, and to fast track the framework's implementation once it is adopted;

(b) To call on all Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) To call on all parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(d) To call on all parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.