



DRAFT CANCUN DECLARATION ON MAINSTREAMING THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR WELL-BEING

We, the Ministers of environment, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism from countries party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development allows us to address the challenges faced by humanity in a transformative manner in environmental, economic and social terms, having met in Cancun, Mexico, on December 3, 2016,

DECLARE:

1. That it is necessary to live in harmony with nature, as an essential condition for well-being, as life depends on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the ecosystem services it provides, emphasizing that biological diversity comprises all living organisms that inhabit the planet.
2. That we need to act urgently to address the environmental crisis faced by our planet, which jeopardizes the well-being of present and future generations, as a result of the impacts on biodiversity caused by the loss and degradation of ecosystems, the overexploitation and trade of species, the introduction of invasive alien species, the contamination of air, soil and inland waters and oceans, and vulnerability due to climate change, among other drivers.
3. That it is imperative that we work within our governments, at the national, subnational and local levels, in order to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programs, establishing an effective institutional, legislative and regulatory framework and incorporating an economic and socially inclusive approach.
4. That the improvement of productivity, by applying sustainability criteria in agricultural planning processes, and use of technological innovations, allow mitigate climate change adverse effects on biodiversity, contributes to ensuring food security, and improves nutrition and human health of the growing global population.
5. That adopting an inclusive and holistic approach, grounded on the participation of governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, the private sector, and academia, with a gender equality and social inclusion perspective, is an essential condition to ensure the protection of biodiversity and the well-being of humankind.
6. That it is our firm political will to promote the mainstreaming of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, particularly for: the protection and sustainable management of ecosystems; the fight against desertification; action on climate change; good health; clean water and sanitation; food security; sustainable production and consumption; economic growth and decent employment; prevention of natural risks; the achievement of



compact, resilient, sustainable and inclusive cities and human settlements; as well as peace and justice; and the reduction of poverty in all its forms, malnutrition, and social inequality among people and regions.

7. That we commit to systematically promote the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity objectives, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its vision for 2050, as well as the Aichi Targets, and as well as the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, noting other initiatives adopted in international forums related to sustainable development, trade, fisheries, and biodiversity.

8. That the mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity seeks to promote changes in human activities to respect nature; to reduce, avoid and mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides; to conserve ecosystems and strengthen resilience of biodiversity; as well as to create positive incentives in productive activities which will ensure its conservation and sustainable use.

And therefore,

WE COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. To ensure that sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programs established by our governments, integrate in a structured and coherent manner, actions on the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of biological diversity.
2. To strengthen the relevant legal framework, and its implementation, to mainstream biodiversity into political, economic and social governance for the well-being of our countries.
3. To assess and update our National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, ensuring that sectors which impact on biodiversity adopt integrated approaches for its conservation and sustainable use.
4. To foster sustainable land use and management, through planning and approaches in urban and rural areas that integrate the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems.
5. To generate and promote research, innovation and scientific and technological information on biodiversity for the formulation of public policies and decision making, ensuring its availability to society, as well as for inclusion in educational programs to promote transparency and participatory processes of all of society.
6. To strengthen the means of implementation for mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in productive sectors, including the development of national capacities, the use of information technologies, strengthening of institutions and evaluation through indicators.
7. To promote international cooperation through programs that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being into governmental policies and economic activities.



8. To promote national and international resource mobilization, both public and private, to finance activities aimed at mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into economic activities for well-being; encouraging organizations such as the Global Environment Facility, development banks, and financial and cooperation institutions, to support implementation mechanisms, such as the payment for environmental services, natural capital accounting, use of native varieties, and environmental and social safeguards, among others.

9. To strengthen the collaboration and creation of aligned objectives to enable the joint work of the organizations of the United Nations system, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and other organizations and international initiatives, creating synergies among them in order to effectively contribute to the mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in sectors, as well as the exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned.

10. To foster the integration of the Convention on Biological Diversity objectives, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets into the actions of other biodiversity-related conventions, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), among other relevant forums, initiatives and programs.

This collaboration can be achieved through the work and cooperation on sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry within FAO, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing; the Post-2015 International Arrangement of Forests, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Land Degradation Neutrality of UNCCD, the CBD Protected Areas Program, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 10 Year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP) and the Sustainable Tourism Program of the World Tourism Organization, among others.

11. To encourage the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector, youth, and academia, with a gender equality and social inclusion perspective, to ensure the effective mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, into productive and service sectors and in cross-sectoral policies, recognizing the shared responsibility and accountability.

12. To ensure respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, the customary sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their traditional knowledge and practices in accordance with relevant national laws, as well as their contribution to the mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being.

13. To strengthen the regulatory framework for private sector activities that have an impact on biodiversity in order to create incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, innovation to improve productivity in sustainable economic activities, biotrade, and green growth.



14. To develop common agendas across sectors, incorporating scientific evidence; to promote innovation and relevant technologies transfer; to encourage sustainable production and consumption throughout value chains, as well as certification schemes and effective access to markets and removal of unjustified barriers affecting access to sustainable products; to promote spatial planning and management with integrated landscape and seascape approaches; to ensure urban, rural and coastal development that respects biodiversity; to strengthen the effective management of protected areas; to promote the restoration and resilience of ecosystems; and to foster social and educational policies linked to the conservation of biodiversity.

15. To internalize impacts from productive activities on biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services, highlighting the vital importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems services for the functioning of sectors, in particular:

- **Agriculture:** through the promotion of sustainable agriculture for economic development, environmental protection, food security, and human nutrition and health; use of agricultural planning processes which enable the promotion and implementation of sustainable agricultural systems; the promotion of knowledge and sustainable use of agricultural ecosystems as reservoirs of agricultural biodiversity, enhancing diversification and fostering an integrated use of landscape; the conservation and promotion of the cultivation of native varieties, as well as the preservation of their wild relatives; the management and conservation of pollinators; the development, transfer, and use of technological innovation; the use of measures to enhance agricultural biodiversity, particularly for small producers; the reduction of agricultural pollution, and the efficient use of agrochemicals, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs; the safe and sustainable use of available alternative technologies; the use of innovative tools and strategies that help reduce the negative impacts of agriculture; the integrated, efficient and sustainable management of energy, water and soil resources; and the promotion of best practices in post-harvest agricultural product management in order to reduce waste and loss of food, among other measures.
- **Fisheries:** through the promotion of the importance of sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for present and future food security, as sustainable economic activities that incorporate an ecosystem approach; the safeguarding of livelihoods, income and employment for fishing communities; the establishment of actions towards conservation and sustainable use of fishing resources which contribute to stock recovery, and that ensure the long term viability of this major activity; the promotion of development and use of knowledge and technological innovation for monitoring and managing fisheries, to improve methods for fishing and aquaculture in such a way that guarantees long term viability, the reduction of bycatch, discards and waste; the fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and trade; and restoration of marine ecosystems.
- **Forestry:** through the promotion of the importance of forest ecosystems as reservoirs of biodiversity and providers of environmental goods and services; highlighting their close relationship with human development and well-being and their relevance in strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change; the integrated landscape approach in forestry management schemes;



the development and implementation of sustainable forestry practices harmonized with biodiversity conservation; the promotion of incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of forestry resources, including payment for environmental services, certified production; forestry and biodiversity monitoring; and the implementation of actions to ensure conservation and restoration of forestry ecosystems.

- **Tourism:** through the integration of biodiversity into policies and models of economic and social development for tourism; strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and environment; the consolidation of tourism as a source of quality jobs, investment and development to improve the people's live standards, including local communities and indigenous peoples, as well as enrich the experience and knowledge of biodiversity for the visitor. All this, through the encouragement of design practices of sustainable infrastructure, production and consumption, the preservation of landscapes, the respect for land planning, the promotion of biocultural wealth and the development and use of technologies to transform tourism in a preservation tool of biological diversity.

The life of the planet and our common future are at stake. It is urgent to take strong actions in a responsible manner to ensure the survival of the natural capital, biological wealth and healthy ecosystems that support our development and well-being. Consequently, we must raise the level of ambition and political will with additional voluntary and innovative commitments that match the needs and circumstances.