

Statement on behalf of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Agenda Item 4 of the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC2)

**Paris, France
29 May – 2 June 2023**

Chair, Madam Executive Secretary, distinguished delegates, pollution in its many forms has been long recognised as a major contribution to environmental decline, with severe implications for human and planetary health. This fact has been increasingly reinforced as more and more scientific studies show how these impacts are becoming manifest.

We wish to highlight and thank the large number of Members who have highlighted the links to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the numerous other references to the impacts on biodiversity and the environment more broadly, made through interventions over the past few days.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework recognises this considerable and immediate threat, most notably through Target 7 on pollution, including a specific reference to preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution, as well as Targets 15 and 16 which relate to sustainable consumption and production directed at producers and consumers respectively. Implementation is expected to be through a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach.

As Members work towards an agreement on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, consideration must be given to complementarity and synergy with existing multilateral environmental agreements, and seek to be mutually supportive. As an example, the reference to clean-up activities respecting biodiversity under the possible core obligation on addressing existing plastic pollution highlights a level of detail that is not provided for in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while also supporting the underlying use of the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach. Both texts also share recognition of indirect elements and co-benefits, such as the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the respective links to human health.

Biodiversity is fundamental to human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity for all people, including for living well in balance and in harmony with Mother Earth. We depend on it for food, medicine, energy, clean air and water, security from natural disasters as well as recreation and cultural inspiration, and it supports all systems of life on Earth. Acknowledging this and the important work being carried out through this INC process, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity stands ready to provide technical support as appropriate.

Thank you.