

3-7 April 2022

Documentation of the Work of the General Assembly Second Committee (GA2) NMUN Simulation*



Conference A

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General Assembly Second Committee (GA2)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

- I. The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development
- II. Continued Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
GA2/1/1	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	90-2-11
GA2/1/2	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	91-6-2
GA2/1/3	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	93-5-2
GA2/1/4	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	95-4-1
GA2/1/5	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	87-9-5
GA2/1/6	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	Adopted without a vote
GA2/1/7	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	82-8-2

GA2/1/8	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	85-7-2
GA2/1/9	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	83-9-2
GA2/1/10	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	80-13-2
GA2/1/11	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	83-8-1
GA2/1/12	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	93-5-1
GA2/1/13	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	74-13-2

Summary Report

The General Assembly Second Committee held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development
- II. Continued Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The session was attended by representatives of 103 Member States and one Observer;

On Sunday, after adopting the agenda of I – II, delegates formed working groups and discussed the main ideas they wanted to include in their working papers. By the second session, working papers were being discussed and organized by ideas. Working papers focused on ecotourism, general funding, ecosystem and land preservation, as well as information sharing. Delegates worked collegially to build consensus, while seeking different avenues to build consensus. Their hard work produced 14 working papers, including a merger that brought the total number to 13. All 13 working papers were approved as draft resolutions, and subsequently voted on. One resolution was adopted without a vote, reflecting the harmony with which delegates worked to address the topic. The resolutions that were passed seek to eradicate poverty, integrate knowledge sharing platforms, expand the purpose of International Biodiversity Day, promote ecotourism, implement tax returns and financial incentives, and define the responsibility of developed Member States in promoting sustainable development through biological diversity.



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Code: 1/1

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Noting with concern that around one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction according to the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service from 2019,

Expressing grave concern about the continued destruction of land containing species at risk of extinction and other harmful disruptions of nature, both on land as well as below water,

Alarmed by the newest scientific data from the latest intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) and its findings in regard on the safety of humankind,

Consciously emphasizing the importance of continued research and sustainable development to ensure a sufficient standard of living for all global citizens,

Expressing the desire to reconcile economic growth with environmental protection, social protection and promotion, setting sustainability as a development model,

Recognizing that Member States most affected by climate change and the loss of biodiversity are often developing nations, which have contributed the least to global emissions, while also having greater difficulty in securing funds for the preservation of their protected areas,

Recalling the great importance of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) (1992) and its efforts to support Member States in promoting biodiversity as part of the pursuit of the 2050 Vision Plan of “Living in Harmony with Nature”,

Emphasizing the importance of UN General Assembly resolution 49/119 (1994) on “International Day for Biological Diversity” to ensure the successful observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity,

Emphasizing the importance of the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity* (2000) and 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* (2011) to guide future efforts regarding the loss of biodiversity, as well as the combat against climate change connected to global warming,

Stressing the desire to follow up on Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011) from the Strategic Plan for Diversity 2011-2020, focusing on recreating regional biodiversity strategies, as well as defining new targets and effective measurements,

Noting article 6 of the *Paris Agreement* (2015), which recognizes that some parties choose to pursue voluntary cooperation in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions,

Recalling Target 11 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which pay special attention to the management of protected areas for the purpose of promoting biodiversity,

Emphasizing the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), introduced in the General Assembly Resolution 70/1 (2015) on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development” that aim to achieve sustainable development without compromising on nature and biodiversity,

Recognizing the importance of General Assembly resolution 76/533 (2021) that follows the commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and to reach the persons most concerned first,

Expressing its conviction to enforce already existing national, and international policies to protect biodiversity, bearing in mind that biodiversity loss endangers health and security,

Underlining the role of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) in sustainable development, which guide in the achievement of the SDGs through coordination of development efforts in 162 countries and territories,

Cognizant of the importance of biodiversity for the sustainable development goals for the future of humankind,

Recalling the importance of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) and its significance to the tremendous loss of insects and the resulting food shortages,

Recognizing the efforts of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in establishing and founding training programs for teachers and educators,

Emphasizing the importance of establishing more protected areas in order to preserve wildlife, humans as well as flora,

Bearing in mind the comprehensive definitions of protected areas are already established by international organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),

Recognizing the importance of the World Commission of Protected Areas, which overlooks all protected areas established by the IUCN,

Stressing the importance of the Biodiversity Financial Initiative (BIOFIN), which provides funding to land preservation initiatives for developing nations,

Also stressing the importance of protecting marine life for Member States who face threats from overfishing, pollution, natural disasters, for example tsunamis or earthquakes,

Recalling the need to tackle both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity protection in link with food requirements detailed by General Assembly resolution 75/235 (2020) on “Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition”,

Applauding the success of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programs, such as the Costa Rican Payments for Environmental Services Program (PESP), in expanding protected lands beyond state-controlled regions,

Recognizing the importance of Artificial Intelligence for Environment & Sustainability (AIRES) in helping researchers add their own data and models to web,

1. *Recommends* the General Assembly to regularly invite experts, for instance from the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and researchers

from the field of the integrated life sciences as professional guest speakers before every General Assembly, when environmental or any natural scientific topics are discussed, to inform the attending Member States about current scientific data;

2. *Further encourages* the General Assembly to include indigenous peoples as guest speakers, when topics related to biodiversity are discussed, since their deep knowledge and understanding of the environment underlines the importance of protecting biodiversity;
3. *Calls to* determine a place and a date for a summit by 2023 to establish the novel global knowledge sharing platform, Cooperation for Ecological Expertise (CEE), by the UNSDG, where existing and new knowledge, policies and programs within the UN framework can be exchanged, to make diverse expertise accessible for the larger civil and political society;
4. *Recommends* the formation of Standing Comprehensive Competence Centers in the framework of CEE under UNSDG, operating on a regional level with ecological experts from different backgrounds, particularly calling upon the role of indigenous peoples, providing regional forums for a comprehensive approach to the conservation of biological diversity, serving as a platform for further global exchange, consultation, and cooperation;
5. *Suggests* that the Standing Comprehensive Competence Centers operates through in-person regional presence and by a strong online presence to make expertise accessible for the greater society;
6. *Further suggests* that the CEE be funded through a progressive contribution to Member States and in collaboration with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group;
7. *Emphasizes* the various purposes of CEE in education, policy making, storing and making existing knowledge available, and promotion of further research on biological diversity, through:
 - a. The development of free and accessible educational material that emphasizes the need to increase the accessibility to information through having continuously available materials online;
 - b. Encouraging teachers of all levels of education to take part in training courses on biodiversity conservation such as those that are already offered by UNICEF and to encourage the implementation of biodiversity and its conservation in the school curriculum for all levels of education;
 - c. Disseminating policy advice to national governments through the framework developed by the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) which provides policy benchmarks for the integration of biological diversity preservation in public policy;
 - d. The promotion of further research by distributing financial resources and human capital;
8. *Further believes* in the importance of partnerships with organizations at a local level, like the Central African Forest Commission or the Great Apes Survival Partnership, to implement the cooperation with research institutes to stress the importance of biological diversity and sustainable development;
9. *Emphasizes* supporting the introduction of the certification of responsible conduct or the introduction of sustainable forest ecosystem management on a global scale;

10. *Requests* the mobilization of private sectors and recognizes that the disproportional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on developing regions can be lessened through the continued support of multilateral partnerships and the mobilization of the public actor to better mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on our most vulnerable populations, by:
 - a. Creating a cohesive, whole government approach to tourism development by establishing or expanding existing national tourism councils for the coordination of all policies and cooperation with the private sector;
 - b. Invest funds and capital from national tourism councils in Member States to the ecosystem to mitigate issues and concerns about climate change and biodiversity loss;
11. *Encourages* Member States to utilize AIRES for SEEA generate comprehensive reports on their ecosystems to facilitate the identification of key targets for Member States to address, including investigation into regenerative ocean farming;
12. *Supports* the establishment of educational programs, developing and increasing research capacity and transferring knowledge within the framework of UN Technology Training Portal to foster the process of biodiversity protection, by:
 - a. Applying technological advancements and artificial intelligence, by creating software and using drones operating on the basis of algorithms to identify endangered areas, contingent upon each Member State's request;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to share technology protected by intellectual property laws and to use simple and modern web-based tools to facilitate the access to knowledge sharing;
13. *Encourages* the expansion of protected areas around the world, specifically within developing nations:
 - a. Considering the different definitions and policies of protected areas, and recommending that Member States utilize the IUCN 2008 definition of "protected area," including the seven distinct management categories, which are strict nature reserve, wilderness area, national park, natural monument or feature, habitat/species management area, protected landscape or seascape, protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources;
 - b. Recognizing the ability to adapt these categories to the needs of prospective protected areas;
 - c. Increasing funding to the World Commission of Protected Areas, specifically from the Biodiversity Financial Initiative (BIOFIN), with special emphasis on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs);
 - d. Involving education programs such as visitor centers which inform citizens and tourists about the protected areas;
14. *Encourages* the Secretariat of the CBD to request that Member States implement the adaptable PES framework developed by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the IUCN as part of their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), with provisions for:

- a. Determining geographic locations with important ecosystems that can be targeted by the PES framework;
 - b. Analyzing the market price of the natural resources residing in these areas;
 - c. Contracting with such private actors as described above to pay a market-determined incentive for implementation of conservation systems;
 - d. Expanding this program as needed to further incentivize and encourage proper conservation efforts by non-governmental actors;
15. *Welcomes* funding of the Global Environment Facility for investing in the regular maintenance of wastewater treatment plants for developing Member States G77 (134 Member States), by making sure the filtering out of nitrogen and phosphorus are properly managed;
16. *Suggests* the establishment of regional forests initiatives under the General Assembly with the mandate for Member States to recognize and preserve the value of their forests in the region to mitigate climate change, reduce poverty, and contribute to sustainable development where the initiative that will:
 - a. Continue to take view of the programs that address deforestation, such as “Reforestamos Guatemala”;
 - b. Encourage the other Member States to plant one million trees in every year;
17. *Supports* the establishment of modalities for intervention and compensation for farmers implementing sustainable forms of agriculture by measures, such as:
 - a. Educational programs aiming, within the framework of UNICEF and UNESCO, to increase awareness of biodiversity and its contribution to sustainable development;
 - b. Training programs specifically focusing on sustainable alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture;
 - c. Installing wind turbines and increasing electricity production to maintain ecosystem services;
 - d. Reclaiming new land for the creation of new income opportunities;
 - e. Introducing gradual subsidy reduction for the top 1% of polluters and investing that money into supporting local farmers and NGOs.



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Code: 1/2

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Acknowledging the *Expert Input to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)* and its warnings that urgent and transformative actions are required in order to prevent irreparable damage to global ecosystems from the loss of biodiversity,

Following the success of the *Paris Agreement (2015)* on climate change in unifying disparate climate protection measures behind one powerful, global goal,

Regretting that the Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 to prevent the “extinction of known threatened species” by 2020 was not fully achieved,

Lamenting the loss of two-thirds of known species in the past 50 years, as well as the current estimated extinction rate of over 200 described species per year,

Encouraged by the plans of Jordan’s Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) biodiversity and sustainable development action plan,

Recognizing the value of the work of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) to use the Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) framework to aid individual Member States in their efforts to monitor species threats and extinctions,

1. *Suggests* that all Member States join, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, an international agreement adopting a new extinction target of fewer than 20 described species per year across all major groups by the end of this century, improving upon the previous Aichi Target for extinction in a post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
2. *Expresses hope* that all Member States will begin negotiations for the aforementioned extinction goal in order to unify Member States in the common pursuit of sustainable development and biodiversity.
3. *Reiterates* that Member States include national contributions toward this global extinction goal in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), including measures to:
 - a. Expand protected lands and marine areas by utilizing frameworks such as the RSCN’s protected network area initiative to protect maritime and terrestrial sites to promote sustainable development and biodiversity;
 - b. Increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity to the well-being of inhabitants of these Member States, as well as the world as a whole;
4. *Encourages* Member States to expand species monitoring mechanisms in accordance with the standards established by the GEO BON in order to collect accurate data on the status of the Member State’s progress toward their individual contribution;

5. *Urges* Member States to utilize the CBD databases on climate change adaptation, incentive measures, scientific assessment, and technology transfer, in order to prepare for individual contributions as part of their NBSAPs.



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Code: 1/3

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling the importance of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss caused by Invasive Alien Species (IAS) (2000) in order to prevent further biodiversity loss because of invasive species,

Reaffirming the efforts made so far on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 on “Life on Land” set by the United Nations, specifically regarding the promotions, restorations, and protections of terrestrial ecosystems,

Emphasizing the need to ensure future global sustainable development, by preventing the destruction of biodiversity and destitution of millions of citizens like the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT), and the Biodiversity Lab,

Mindful of the relevance of diverse aquatic life and areas untouched by humanity known as “no-take zone water” as mentioned in SDG 6 on “Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 14 on “Life Below Water”,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the 2012 Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) established on 30 November 2015,

Acknowledging the alarming amount of endangered species among the international community, and how if the climate crisis continues at this pace, there will be a sixth mass extinction,

Recognizing that large inequalities in the world regarding wealth and the ecological footprint of Member States, require some Member States to bear a larger responsibility to protect biodiversity,

Deeply concerned by the socio-economic threats the COVID-19 pandemic brought to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation,

Recognizing that many Member States depend on tourism as their main economic sector,

Reaffirming the positive impact of ecotourism on education, employment opportunities, and economic growth to achieve internationally agreed upon development goals as cited in UN General Assembly 2015 Resolution 69/233 (2015) titled “Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection”, and SDG 8 titled “Decent Work and Economic Growth”,

Expressing its appreciation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) convened by the Secretary-General and the establishment of the Bio-Bridge Initiative Web-Platform (2018) by the Secretariat of the CBD,

Noting with deep concern the continued loss of 4.7 million hectares of forested land a year, along with two billion hectares of land already environmentally degraded by unsustainable practices,

Recognizing that the direct destruction and degradation of ecosystems as well as climate change are main drivers of biodiversity loss,

Recognizing also the current work of the Trillion Trees Initiative started on 9 March 2018, and the group’s focus on carbon reduction to fight climate change,

Noting that of the twenty targets set for the 2011-2020 period by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 only six of were partially met, while regional action plans have had far more success,

Acknowledging the aforementioned efforts made required the financial and infrastructural resources that some Member States cannot afford if they were to model on their own,

Emphasizing the importance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1993), the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity* (2000) and 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* (2011),

1. *Recommends* Member States to work with the IUCN to further implement nature reserves in order to monitor and protect biodiversity by:
 - a. Expanding the implementation of regional indigenous populations' biodiversity-based policies and research of indigenous crops farming practices to alleviate the economic stress caused by intensity of crop systems globally;
 - b. Inviting those of indigenous backgrounds to contribute to the nature reserves by providing information on the flora and fauna and being employed as a guide;
2. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the prevention of further destruction or degradation of ecosystems which are important for biodiversity, as stated in the SDG 15, through:
 - a. Calling the UN Laboratories to identify a set of ecosystems and species on the basis of species distribution data and present maps to distinguish the most biodiverse areas of every Member State;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to protect at least 30% of its most biodiverse areas;
3. *Calls for* the creation of an annual UN meeting for the discussion of biodiversity conservation, establish biosphere reserves to protect the world's most biodiverse areas, and:
 - a. Set goals to achieve within a designated time frame in order to ensure sustainable development and the protection of these areas;
 - b. Ensure that this meeting is inclusive of all relevant stakeholders including indigenous communities, youth, women and communities of developing states;
 - c. Make sure the protected areas include marine life and oceanic areas alongside with wetlands, highlands and mountains;
4. *Stresses* that Member States should collaborate with United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and:
 - a. Recommending states with similar biomes work in together to protect biodiversity, such as the Brazzaville Declaration of 2018;
 - b. Emphasizing the need of these regional efforts to serve as the foundation for the Vision 2050 Goals, given that previous biodiversity targets assigned by the UN have not been met;
5. *Calls for* the continued protection of aquatic life and biodiversity below water and the reduction of water pollution as stated in SDG 14 on "Life below Water", by:
 - a. Urging the continued and intensified implementation of SDG targets 14.2, 14.4 and 14.5 through 2030, which concern the protection of marine territory and life;
 - b. Suggesting the increase of preserved coastal and marine areas in regard to SDG 14.5 as well as additional freshwater reserves to at least 30% of Member States national aquatic territory;

- c. Adding to SDG 14.4 on preventing overfishing and marine life exploitation and recommending the creation of no-take zones in marine territory in Member States through a national marine spatial planning in order to prevent the exploitation of marine biodiversity:
 - i. Encouraging voluntary donations from Member States to an international fund such as the UN Blue Action fund;
 - ii. Cooperating closely with UN Water and its partners;
 - d. Seeking cooperation with relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to aid in the cleaning of oceans near Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
 - e. Urging all Member States to support International Seabed Authority recommendations on coral reefs in international waters which serve as carbon sinks;
6. *Encourages* Member States to address the harmful effects of alien species on the national level, by:
 - a. Implementing the “IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss caused by Invasive Alien Species”;
 - b. Establishing a legal framework to prevent the introduction of alien species into foreign environments;
 - c. Implementing a more ambitious program to identify, monitor, and eradicate invasive species already imported and introduced to local habitats;
7. *Stresses* the necessity of increasing funding of the Environmental Fund of the UNEP to secure the financial needs in relation to the preservation of biodiversity:
 - a. Calling upon BIOFIN to create novel and country specific financial instruments, evaluate financial needs to implement the 2021 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and find scalable financial solutions to close the financial gap for securing the needs of the 2030 National Biodiversity Targets;
 - b. Calling upon Member States to increase efforts in future funding for the UN biodiversity labs, while establishing financial aid programs for national and public research organizations;
 - c. Inviting developed Member States to contribute further financial support under the BIOFIN program in proportion to their respective ecological footprints and higher financial resources;
8. Calls upon the IATF to establish the Debt-for-Nature Working Group (DFN) which shall have the following tasks:
 - a. Conducting a study on best-practice methods in swapping debt which shall be made available to the Second Committee of the General Assembly in a report and on the Bio-Bridge Initiative Web-Platform;
 - b. Developing a guidance strategy based on the findings in the study to advise all parties that need assistance in conducting a debt swap and the DNF shall be financed by one percent of the debt swaps it assists in;
9. *Encourages* the establishment of the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Funding for Food security in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to promote the sustainable consumption and production of natural resources for nutrition purposes, by:

- a. Gathering actions plans and strategies from Member States upon request;
 - b. Analyzing the submission and providing funding, and recommendations for the implementation of these strategies;
10. *Encourages* the lifting of sanctions unrelated to war crimes if the affected states can assure to use released assets for funding of programs related to the protection of biodiversity;
11. *Advises* the international community to work with the organizations similar to the World Seed Project and Crop Trust in order to preserve the diversity of plant species and generate more native plant communities;
12. *Recommends* the General Assembly to regularly invite scientists, for example from the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and researchers from the field of the integrated life sciences as professional guest speakers before every General Assembly session to inform the attending Member States about current scientific data when environmental or any natural scientific topics are discussed;
13. *Urges* international cooperation between Member States with similar ecosystems based on the Koppen Climate Classification Map modeled off the Brazzaville Declaration, and the Mesopotamia Revitalization project to create agreements and regional goals, by:
 - a. Recommending support in funding from the World Bank;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to establish regional plans, such as the Mesopotamia Revitalization Project and Brazzaville Declaration, both of which have contributed to the reversal of deforestation;
 - c. Suggesting the aforementioned records serve as foundations towards meeting the Global Goals set by the UN by 2030;
 - d. Suggesting that the UN Biodiversity Lab direct part of its revenue at suggesting legislature to Member States without the means to do research;
14. *Invites* all Member States to commit to forest restoration, carbon reduction amounting to 540 million tons of CO₂ and financial incentives for landowners, by:
 - a. Recommending the commitment to the Trillion Trees initiative, thus contributing to restoration and protection of forest lands globally;
 - b. Encouraging governments to provide financial incentives to landowners to enhance carbon removal through forest restoration;
15. *Urges* all Member States to ratify the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol, and the Nagoya Protocol and to engage actively in an ambitious post-2020 biodiversity framework.



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Code: 1/4

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Highly appreciating the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” of 2015 particularly Sustainable Development Goal 2.3,

Highlighting 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 (2011) and its communication-oriented efforts for enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem protections as important methods for ensuring global biodiversity and improving all Member States’ environment,

Recalling the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011) that emphasizes the need for capacity-building activities and the effective sharing of knowledge,

Considering the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s (UNFCCC) goals to limit the adverse effects of human activity on the climate,

Noting with gratitude the REDD+ initiative aiming to handle the propositions brought up by UNFCCC,

Fully aware of the negative consequences of armed conflict on surrounding ecosystems,

Considering the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services pointing out the decline in biodiversity at unprecedented rates as well as the threat of the extinction of one million species,

Noting that a large amount of small-scale farmers do not have equitable access to profits from their work and the need to eliminate trade distorting subsidies, while integrating smallholder farms into national, regional, and international markets,

Recognizing the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity related conventions and agreements such as the UN Convention on Combating Desertification and the UNFCCC,

Understanding violations to pollution standards committed by private corporations,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 75/235 (2020) on “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition”,

Noting with interest the work made by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to offer investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private sector development in less developed Member States,

Bearing in mind that the economic development is an overriding priority over biodiversity related topics for 63 developing countries,

Recognizing that the UN Capital development fund can be used to fund new green technology and information sharing systems,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 75/227 (2020) on “Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries” highlighting that Least Developed Countries are the most vulnerable to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic,

Reminding Member States of the General Assembly Second Committee draft resolution 64/L.23/Rev.1 of 20th November 2009, which proclaims the sustainable development of mountains,

Recalling the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and its commitments to biological diversity and the preservation and regeneration of life,

Stressing on the role the UN bodies play in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that can cause migration, and invites all stakeholders to take note of this when addressing drivers of migration within the ongoing processes,

Noting with appreciation the informal forum of the three Rio Conventions, the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) with its aim to enhance coordination between the three Conventions and explore options for further corporations,

Acknowledging the objectives of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2000) regarding the protection Living Modified Organisms (LMOs),

Applauding the European Commission Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) partnership’s International Pollinator Initiative Plan of Action 2018-2030 that focuses on safeguards for wild pollinators,

Recognizing that 78% of those in extreme poverty reside in rural areas and derive their livelihoods in agriculture,

Further recognizing that the value of global crops directly relying on pollinators is estimated at 235-577 billion USD annually, according to FAO report, Why Bees Matter (2018),

Stressing the 50% decrease in the population of marine life between the time period 1970 to 2012,

Fully aware of the fact that around one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction within a decade, according to the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) report, *Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’: Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’* (2019),

Expressing concerns of offshore drilling in the next ten years that potentially threaten marine habitats as well as the danger associated with the use of fossil fuels,

Deeply concerned that only six of the Aichi targets set in Nagoya in 2010 for 2020 have been partially achieved, while all 20 remain incomplete,

Recognizing that 80% of the world’s biodiversity is located on well conserved indigenous lands, according to the United Nations Department of Ecological and Social Affairs Expert Group Meeting: Conservation and the Rights of Indigenous People (2019),

Bearing in mind the National Biodiversity Network (2000) which is committed to improving accessibility and awareness on biodiversity through the internet,

Convinced that biodiversity researching helps to analyze and monitor the ecosystem better and develop more sophisticated conservation programmes,

1. *Encourages* the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of CBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and UNFCCC to conclave a joint training workshop organized by national focal points (NFP) of the three Rio Conventions for Member States on how to develop projects that contribute to all three Conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals in order to address them simultaneously and thereby contributing to the Conventions in a more efficient and cause effective way;
2. *Invites* the Secretariats of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC to commit to initiating meetings of their Joint Liaison Group at least once a year;
3. *Asks* the three Secretariats of the Rio Conventions to make a report on their data collection process and evaluate it by developing a strategy on how to unify reporting, in order to facilitate it further and harmonize the intersectional and interdependent objectives of the three Conventions and present it to the General Assembly by the end of 2022;
4. *Encourages* the reinforcement of already established research and development centers in more developed Member States in order to raise awareness and teach the general population about the various issues surrounding biodiversity as well as to strengthen scientific research:
 - a. On land, marine life, and alternative renewable energy sources;
 - b. By the development of a funding system that encourages Member States to actively participate in monetary recycling, by:
 - i. Creating a payback system where the amount returned is based on an economic range that is calculated by the economic development and pollution levels of Member States;
 - ii. Asking the CBD and the UNFCCC to organize and host the platform;
5. *Appeals* to launch the Train the Trainer Teaching (TTT) Programme where Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and developed Member States cooperate in sharing specific regional knowledge and technology on the topic of biodiversity by:
 - a. Creating accessible and free online educational courses and databases;
 - b. Establishing an offline TTT Programme for Member States without sufficient access to online educational resources;
6. *Asks* the CBD secretariat to expand the Bio-Bridge Initiative (2014) for Member States to increase technological, and information sharing with LDCs in order to promote sustainable development;
7. *Requests* the implementation and funding of research and development of analysis programs throughout developing Member States to assess the adequate levels of biodiversity of habitats in mountainous regions, by:
 - a. Imploring Member States to pledge international support for mountain conservation programs;
 - b. Encouraging the implementation of conservatory programs throughout mountainous regions;

- c. Recommending a yearly summit among Member States to promote education and sustainability of mountainous regions;
 - d. Further recommending support towards developing countries in their conservation efforts of mountainous regions through creating a committee, with experts from the scientific community, that supports the research and development of country-specific programs in conservation measures;
- 8. *Suggests* the provision of financial funds for Members States by the IFC that host indigenous local communities in order to sustain the development of their techniques that have great impact on protection of biodiversity and climate change, as well as financial benefits for the Member States;
- 9. *Encourages* indigenous local communities to educate developed Members States taking the lead to promote sustainable consumption and production practices, by implementing circular education of packaging practices through a collaboration with the Collaborating Center on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP);
- 10. *Promotes* cooperation between Member States and the UNFCCC in order to implement and improve upon current early warning systems for extreme weather events, such as wildfires for the preservation of forests and the biodiversity that they contain and contribute to the world;
- 11. *Encourages* Member States to implement working spaces for indigenous local communities in order for indigenous people to share their knowledge on conserving biodiversity and for Member States to preserve their knowledge by installing national knowledge-hubs;
- 12. *Calls upon* funding on green technology through the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) as mutually beneficial for corporations, Member States and people alike, by:
 - a. Sharing and financing new green technology with all Member States, with additional capital and funds being provided to those that respect intellectual property rights;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to enforce existing patents with due difference and respect to the corporations that are funding green technological industry in their state;
 - c. Allowing Member States that wish to donate capital to do so without limit with an understanding that they will be under no obligation to be given anything in return;
- 13. *Recommends* a collaboration between Member States and the World Bank to create monitoring mechanism to support the compliance to biodiversity conservation by private entities, through:
 - a. Publishing an annual report on measures taken to ensure compliance to biodiversity conservation and accounting for improvements using a point system that later entails a funding reward;
 - b. Imposing a penalty on corporations that acquire negative points for non-compliance to biodiversity conservation and allocate them to corporations that better supports environmental rights;
- 14. *Encourages* FAO and UNDP to coordinate with The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in order to implement agricultural policies and develop infrastructure that supports and encourages the integration of small-scale farmers into national, regional, and

international markets which will lead to a reduction in the overall poverty rates and higher levels of sustainability in Member States, which may also require:

- a. Flexibility in national policy concerning the reduction in tariffs in order to help smallholder farms expand to new markets;
- b. Reduction in trade distorting subsidies that give unequal levels of equity to the farmers, while the enterprises/corporations continue to reap the financial benefits;
- c. Removal of barriers related to exporting agricultural products where one country has an advantage that deters the disadvantaged country from participating in trade;
- d. Payments and additional credits to farmers for land that provides ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration;
- e. Raising awareness for the benefits of commercial integration, such as food security, reduced poverty rates, and sustainability;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt policies cognizant of the importance of the agriculture industry as a vital means of employment, food security, and economic development through the future development of platforms shared between public and private sectors and additional assistance that focus on the need for of sustainable technologies, to further the development of agriculture infrastructure and manufacturing in LDCs and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

16. *Recommends* the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty, which brings together indigenous communities, researchers, and policy analysts to develop agricultural systems with lower carbon and ecological footprints;

17. *Asks* the CBD secretariat to create a database under the Cartagena Protocol to collect information on genetically modified organisms and label them within the contexts of their use, habitation and transportation, particularly in the agricultural sector;

18. *Calls upon* all Member States to develop education programs to highlight the necessity to conserve biological diversity and its links with economic prosperity with a particular focus on gender inclusion, women empowerment and marginalized communities, by:

- a. Requesting the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to call upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN Women to develop guidelines for education policy outlining minimum requirements for effective, equitable and sufficient education programmes to promote biodiversity conservation, with a particular focus on women through establishment of targeted education programmes to dismantle stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination and promote equitable education for marginalized communities such as indigenous populations;
- b. Inviting Member States to report annually at the UNEP UN Summit for Biodiversity on the success of education programs and encourage multilateral sharing of strategies and resources;

19. *Asks* ECOSOC through the FAO, to work closely with Member States to advise on policies that would ensure the diversification of crops and the elimination of harmful monocropping

practices in order to secure access to food resources for vulnerable communities, particularly at the time of environmental crises;

20. *Recommends* that Member States work in collaboration with CBD in recording the effect on ecosystems posed by armed conflicts in an international database;

21. *Invites* Member States to expand on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+) by UNFCCC aiming to incentivize developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;

22. *Requests* that UNFCCC publishes a toolkit for the management of wildfire crises and the protection against the threats of climate change on forests by expanding on the fire-wise concept which informs individuals about living among wildfires, while providing suggestions for favorable behavior that individuals can adopt in order to protect forests;

23. *Requests*, as appropriate, of the decision of the Conference of Parties (COP) to CBD, at its thirteenth session, to support the positive role of the UNCCD in those countries experiencing serious drought as well as desertification, through launching the initiative "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification" in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly on the African continent;

24. *Urges* for the finalization of the World Adaption Science Programme (WASP), which will unite policy makers and research scientists for knowledge sharing especially in developing countries;

25. *Asks* the Secretariat of the CBD to hold a Biological Economic Recovery Meeting (BERM), chaired by the Executive Secretary of the CBD as a side panel during the next COP with the conference of the Parties to discuss how to finance future projects benefiting biodiversity and thereby avoiding the next pandemic and supporting economic recovery after the COVID-19 especially in LDCs.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/5

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recognizing the need to prioritize the health and quality of life of every human being to the highest standards, especially in the event of a natural disaster or the consequence of climate change without discrimination of race, religion, or circumstances as outlined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) (UDHR),

Guided by General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), titled “Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development,” which sets the framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to ensure indigenous, marginalized and vulnerable populations are not left behind in biodiversity conservation programs,

Reaffirming its commitment to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and continues to support the United Nations Decade for Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2029),

Acknowledging the contributions developed Member States have made to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization while emphasizing the need for greater commitment to supporting least-developed countries,

Emphasizing the success of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Network of Biosphere Reserves in protecting biodiversity resources in many different regions, by following a pattern of creating a strictly protected zone surrounded by a buffer zone giving opportunities for education and tourism and then a transition zone to integrate sustainable practices with the community,

Acknowledging that the needs of Member States will vary, and that specific response to the loss of biodiversity will need to adapt based on the circumstances of each individual Member State,

Further recalling that the United Nations of Development Programme (UNDP) was successful in leading the preparation of over 150 Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (SEIAs) in 97 Member States and five regions creating a total of 121 United Nations (UN) Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs) covering 139 Member States,

1. *Calls for* initial research overseen by UNDP to expand its current study to understand the environmental issues that are currently being faced by Member States in order to eradicate inequalities related to sustainability and biodiversity and contribute to educational programs which ensure overall self-sufficiency and active growth of ecological service personnel, resources, and infrastructure, by:
 - a. Amassing information on resources disparities by 2025 in order to allow sufficient data collection combined with a sense of urgency to provide effective support in a timely manner;

- b. Conducting surveys on an international scale in order to monitor particular concerning trends in order to provide more insight into inequities in access to ecological resources between Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and developed Member States with the primary goal of reducing these inequities;
 - c. Sharing the collected data with the UN Biodiversity Lab (UNBL) with the aim of enriching the existing database and providing an overarching foundation for evidence-based decision making on biodiversity issues;
 - d. Advising for an increase in voluntary funding provided by the Member States as well as a partnership with UNEP towards ecological resources specific to the needs of each Member State based on data collected through the research initiative in order to promote the active growth and self-sufficiency of the development of our ecosystem;
 - e. Advocating for full transparency with the methods used by, funding for, and affiliation of researchers to ensure legitimate data is collected while respecting sovereignty;
 - f. Focusing on how different ecosystems shape different cultures and different species, and also focusing on approaches to protecting biodiversity;
2. *Invites* Members States to implement educative programs at different levels of education to ensure knowledge about the issues on the loss of biodiversity and its solutions inherent to the problem, by:
- a. Developing programs based on data from the international scientific community to ensure a representative and encompassing multilateral education focused on the protection of soil, nature, landscape, air quality, mountain forestry, agriculture, waste and water management, as well as tourism and recreation;
 - b. Incentivizing primary and secondary education institutions to include biodiversity curriculum and goals, and to incorporate sustainability practices within education;
 - c. Enhancing international exchange of students and teachers to enhance the diversity of ideas and perspectives to the highlighted issues;
 - d. Presenting and educating on new economic perspectives and models for the future such as non-competitive economies and circular economies;
 - e. Promoting research initiatives at local universities focusing on environmental impact studies, supported with information by international universities and scientists, with a focus on different aspects of biodiversity and ways to maintain it in the respective Member State, local community, and ecosystem;
 - f. Creating an environmental program called Education for Them (EFT) designed for rural populations that could teach them how to care about nature and protect biodiversity in order to enable them to maintain their livelihood in a sustainable way;
 - g. Taking action against industry that represents one of the most polluting sectors in the world through the implementation of educational programs that may create awareness in the way they use, produce, consume, and trade goods and services; particularly food which depends on biodiversity and which has an immediate impact on it;

3. *Highlights* the importance of knowledge sharing and dialogue with indigenous communities, by:
 - a. Cooperating with indigenous communities and UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to monitoring of biological diversity as defined in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as sharing best practices to help prevent environmental crises and promote sustainable development;
 - b. Creating a database to educate the general populace about indigenous practices related to biodiversity conservation;
 - c. Integrating indigenous people in environmental governance, by:
 - i. Requiring consent from indigenous people and local communities for conservation and development initiatives;
 - ii. Allowing indigenous people to manage land according to their own practices to strengthen traditional practices that would help conservation;
 - iii. Promoting the listing of heritage sites via the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to aid conservation;
4. *Encourages* increased support for and participation in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, through:
 - a. Creation an individual goal by each Member State to increase participation in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by working with the UNESCO to determine a reasonable goal based on the Member State's size and current situation;
 - b. Expansion of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO to include marine areas of concern and buffer and transition zones on the shore nearest the marine area;
5. *Suggests* expansion of initiatives led by national governments, advised by UNESCO and UNEP, to promote the protection and restoration of forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems by local communities and indigenous populations through:
 - a. Increasing the use of small grants from Member State governments, UNESCO, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support unique community sustainability projects which add economic value to the community and protect biodiverse regions;
 - b. Collaborating with local communities and indigenous people on co-management projects in which governments advise local communities on sustainable management practices and local communities benefit economically from new ventures;
6. *Strongly encourages* Member States to recognize the importance of women as central environmental decision makers and informal educators fostering cross generational education and socioeconomic mobility. Member States are called to support initiatives to ensure gender inclusion and participation in sustainable agriculture practices and empower women in environmental conservation decision-making processes through:
 - a. Suggesting collaboration with UN Women, the UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to establish educational programs for women and provide technical assistance and resources;

- b. Fostering dialogue with indigenous populations, especially women, to build upon their knowledge of landscape management and biodiversity conservation, ameliorating women's resilience and gender equality while ensuring intergenerational continuity of information;
7. *Implores* the General Assembly to facilitate the flow of information between governments and society to combat the deteriorating ecosystem, by:
- a. Establishing a smooth and efficient communication system for the adequate use of resources and close collaboration between nations to meet local, regional, and international biodiversity goals;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to support agendas that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all sectors of their government and economy;
 - c. Developing domestic strategies that carry over to foreign policy, helping to further develop the international goals set by the United Nations;
 - d. Inviting Member States to be transparent and open about their activities relating to domestic and international environmental legislation;
8. *Encourages* the creation of an intergovernmental working group comprised of international, regional and national environmental protection agencies, intended to:
- a. Connect the various economic initiatives concerning the exploitation of natural resources, and create a plan of action to increase competitiveness;
 - b. Facilitate the specialization of economies of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in non-pollution businesses, incorporating knowledge sharing through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) by coordinating knowledge-sharing projects with participating entities such as the European Union, African Union, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with emphasis on the development of shared industries that are in compliance with the Aichi Goals 2020;
9. *Strongly encourages* the expansion of existing regional seed bank and education initiatives in cooperation with the FAO, to:
- a. Assists local smallholder communities in reviving and improving their traditional seed-saving practices for the sake of food security, sustainable agriculture and conservation of local agricultural biodiversity;
 - b. Dispenses seeds more suited to the local climate for cultivation and educates farmers on how to monitor soil quality and optimally orient irrigation fields;
 - c. Educates farmers on best practices for crop handling such as crop rotation and times to plant and harvest;
 - d. Collaborates with UNESCO to restore historical earthwork irrigation methods in order to mitigate the effects of drought and floods on crop irrigation;

10. *Recommends* cooperation with private and public sector organizations to ensure public awareness of new developments and solution opportunities regarding the protection of biodiversity, by:
 - a. Emphasizing a collective baseline of information on biodiversity and sustainable development by state led and private media;
 - b. Rewarding new pioneering companies acting as sustainability leaders in all sectors tackling biodiversity loss in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals, by offering them financial incentives and augmented public promotion;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to include national support for citizen science groups designed to include citizen participation in biodiversity data collection, biodiversity protection programs and biodiversity education courses;
11. *Considers* creating partnerships between Member States and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and UNESCO to increase focus for the ecotourism industry, by:
 - a. Creating protected areas reserved for wildlife in an effort to inspire conservation, research, and education for domestic and foreign visitors;
 - b. Researching opportunities for every Member State for natural attractions which will foster tourism and then investing in building environmentally-sustainable infrastructure to support those attractions while highlighting the natural biodiversity;
 - c. Raising awareness among provincial and local governmental bodies for the importance of biological diversity as natural asset for tourism and among local communities for the benefits of ecotourism on sustainability and conservation in local ecosystems and communities;
 - d. Training members of local communities or indigenous populations to be eco-tour guides in order to provide income for them while giving opportunities for education about biodiversity, conservation, and ecotourism that can then spread throughout the community;
 - e. Reinvesting 30% of Member States' infrastructure budget solely aimed at a sustainable infrastructure agenda such as hydroelectric power stations, bioswales, and permeable pavements in established areas of high tourism-based traffic to lessen environmental damage and loss of biodiversity;
12. *Further emphasizes* that programs funded by the United Nations related to the preservation of biodiversity be freely accessible to all Member States, regardless of ideological, cultural or political affiliation.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/6

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Reaffirming the important role of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) aimed at realizing the 2030 Agenda as stated in the General Assembly resolution 70/1 on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2030 Agenda) (2015),

Deeply concerned by the direct relationship between the loss of biological diversity and the decrease in the productivity of agricultural land as established by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

Recognizing the importance of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in regards to the preservation and safeguarding of the ecosystem and the importance of Strategic Goal C in improving the status of biodiversity and genetic diversity,

Noting that of the twenty targets set for the 2011-2020 period by the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*, only six were partially met, while regional initiatives like the Mesopotamia revitalization project and Armenia Biodiversity action plan have had far more success,

Recognizing the importance of the protection of endangered species through exchange of those species by the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES),

Reiterating the importance of the UN Biodiversity Lab that provides spatial data to put nature at the center of sustainable development,

Appreciating the work of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing infrastructure, procurement and project management services,

Highlighting the effectiveness of educational programs such as The Bay of Bengal's Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation's (BIMSTEC) Expert Group on Agricultural Cooperation (EGMAC),

Reiterating the agricultural and environmental success of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in its creation of both the SAARC Food Bank and the SAARC Seed Bank Agreements, and their dedication to decreasing food insecurity and conserving agricultural biological diversity,

Acknowledging the role the *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat* (Convention on Wetlands) has in the maintenance of wetlands and its ecological importance towards the designation of specific areas that preserve biodiversity,

Appreciating the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme's encouragement of the sharing of information and resources, as well as addressing invasive species and trans boundary pollution,

Noting the positive impact of the Asian Development Bank in the work to attain SDG's in developing Member States, and stressing the need to assess both the national and international progress made on achieving these goals,

Firmly believing in the efforts of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization for facilitating projects and initiatives towards reforestation and research for new approaches to addressing climate change,

1. *Celebrates* the work already completed by local and regional bodies like the establishment of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) and cooperating organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and One Percent for the Planet that promote the strengthening of conservation and environmental protection programs;
2. *Stresses* the importance of the continued support for regional and national programs such as Member States NBSAPs as stated in article 6a of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the acknowledgement of the importance of preserving indigenous and traditional agricultural practices and the encouragement in the implementation of new programs at all levels;
3. *Invites* Member States to initiate multilateral cooperation through the spread of information and agricultural practices that both prioritizes sustainable agriculture and supports further collaboration with the United Nations Development Program in the implementation of initiatives that support smallholder farms throughout the South Asia region, and the world, and acknowledges the Importance of FAO and the information regarding the loss of biodiversity and the role of sustainable agriculture they provide, and:
 - a. Reaffirms the benefits of using methods of sharing information regarding sustainable agricultural practices and the impact of climate change such as The Bay of Bengal's Initiative Multi-Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation's (BIMSTEC) Expert Group Meeting of Agricultural Cooperation (EGMAC) and the annual report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
 - b. Reiterates the importance of local outreach and regional cooperation of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) assistance with supporting rural farmers throughout the South Asia region, and welcomes further collaboration between Member States and the ADB;
 - c. Expresses its conviction for the conservation of ecosystems through the support for international environmental agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA);
4. *Welcomes* the creation of new and innovative rural and urban agricultural infrastructures to promote sustainable environmental practices guided by the biodiversity database of the UN Biodiversity Lab, with the collaboration of UNOPS to guide the implementation of updated infrastructures;
5. *Calls for* the economic recognition of sustainable development by Member States through financial investment in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA) as laid out in the 2030 Agenda;

6. *Recommends* the promotion of high-level expert group meetings on using sustainable agriculture to stimulate economic growth and eradicate poverty membership for attendance to include guest speakers such as non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, scientists and indigenous peoples to share knowledge and promote sustainable agriculture techniques to other Member States, so that all Member States can take advantage of scientific and traditional expertise;
7. *Suggests* Member States renew their commitment to agreements that discuss current and future sustainable agricultural practices, along with sustainable mountain practices such as regulating watersheds and providing for land management systems, as well as including sustainable practices for low-lying regions such as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *Paris Agreement*, and the *Kyoto Protocol*;
8. *Requests* that Member States support efforts for Sustainable Mountain Development by collaborating with the World Tourism Organization to encourage the implementation of programs that promote eco-friendly tourism, equitable access to natural resources for rural communities, and furthers the work of organizations such as the International Center for Integrated Sustainable Mountain Development in their mission to preserve at risk watersheds and share information about mountain ecosystems.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/7

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling resolution 75/219 (2020) on the “Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development” setting a Post-2020 Framework focusing on knowledge sharing and awareness as well as the importance of biodiversity in order to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs),

Acknowledging resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2015), which identified seventeen key goals to address critical issues revolving around the correlation between the realization of sustainable development and the protection of biodiversity, and supporting resolution 69/313 (2015) on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Underscoring agendas that encourage all Member States to acknowledge the challenge in achieving sustainable goals without economic support,

Expressing its concern about the continued degradation of ecosystems around the globe,

Reminding the Member States of their commitment to protecting all life on land and in the oceans as pledged in the SDGs 14 and 15,

Recalling the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, especially Targets 17 and 18 aiming to implement National Action Plans (NAPs) and knowledge exchange using the skills of local communities,

Re-Emphasizing SDG 4: Quality Education, which ensures equitable and quality primary and secondary education, early child development, equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university, substantially increases the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, eliminate gender disparities, and ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development through education,

Also re-emphasizing SDGs 11 and 12 which promote sustainable development of economy and consumption and production patterns and being aware that monetary benefits alone should not be the benchmark for economic development and good living,

Acknowledging the work of the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to focus on providing assistance to address investments developments and ecological concerns,

Being aware of the key drivers of global change in nature during the past 50 years according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform (IPBES), such as changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution, and invasion of alien species,

Reaffirming that humans are not the only organisms living within the urban environment and as a result should integrate the biodiversity within the notion of urban and economic development, and understanding the importance of including all shareholders in biodiversity protectionary efforts, including but not limited to scientists, environmentalists, politicians, and citizens,

Bearing in mind the conclusion of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the failure in achieving the Goals set for the 2021 report deadline, as well as the lack of a continuation plan for this initiative,

Drawing attention to the impact of businesses on biological diversity and suggesting a possible solution for more sustainable business solutions,

Appreciating the work of the Bio-bridge Initiative (BBI) in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation among Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity by creating a space to allow Parties to share knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned with each other,

Recognizing the work of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and their efforts to encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring and informing Member States and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations,

Understanding the necessity for citizen participation in biodiversity work as the UNEP has shown that including citizens in tracking biodiversity and sustainable development goals leads to better community awareness of biodiversity, greater appreciation for biodiversity and sustainability, and increased action by citizens regarding biodiversity protections,

Acknowledging the necessity for biodiversity education to be delivered in primary and secondary education institutions in order to raise citizen participation in biodiversity protection efforts and include the youth in biodiversity discussions,

Realizing the knowledge gaps regarding sustainable technologies and innovation between least developed and developed Member States,

Appreciating previous commitments of UN Member States to the *Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing* that highlights the benefits of equitable sharing of knowledge, specifically as it pertains to genetic materials,

Applauding the United Nations Development Fund's Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP), helping inhabitants of drylands build resilience, reduce vulnerability and improve their livelihood,

Further recalling the 2011 report *The Forgotten Billion - MDG Achievement in the Drylands*, highlighting issues faced by the inhabitants of drylands,

Drawing attention to the International Labor Organization (ILO) report: *World Employment and Social Outlook - 2018 Greening with Jobs*, which will create 24 million new jobs globally by 2030, pending sustainable practices are implemented,

Taking into consideration that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the lack of biosphere safeguarding which exposes human life to the phenomenon of "zoonosis", and making sure the matter is recognized by the actors of the International Cooperation of Switzerland in accordance with the aims of the CI 2021-2022 strategy and by the WHO, recognizing that zoonosis occurs when a disease is brought by animals to humans, exactly like Covid-19,

Recognizing the work of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) in the creation of payment for economic systems (PSE),

Recalling the 22 May as the International Day of Biodiversity and the importance of raising awareness in order to preserve biodiversity,

Appreciating the work of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) supported by UNEP and UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) which aims to provide a global impetus for initiatives related to the circular economy transition, resource efficiency, and sustainable consumption and production, building on efforts being deployed internationally,

Appreciating the work done by the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) on educating UN staff and relevant partners,

Recommends Member States cooperate with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCND) in raising awareness about businesses' dependence on biodiversity,

Recognizing the efforts done by the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) to fund and promote policies that will review and programmatic action in the areas of biodiversity and economic development,

Acknowledging the potential of sustainable tourism to preserve biodiversity and generate profit for the communities and individuals,

1. *Reaffirms* the necessity for a strong relationship between biodiversity and monetary value that caters to ongoing circumstances of both;
2. *Calls upon* Member States to put a special emphasis within their NAPs concerning the CBD on circular economy to fulfill their commitment to reach the SDGs 9, 11, and 12, which can be facilitated by:
 - a. Establishing national and regional focal points that are encouraged to:
 - i. Gather and disseminate information on how mechanisms of circular economy can be implemented nationally while putting a special focus on waste management, recycling, and composting facilities;
 - ii. Promote nature-based solutions and favorable outcomes for biodiversity and the national economy by pursuing measures of circular economy through educational programs and raising public awareness by using the financial support of the UNEPs Environmental Fund;
 - b. Sharing the data gathered on the focal points voluntarily on the Circularity Platform of UNEP so that Member States have access to knowledge and best practices concerning establishing a circular economy;
 - c. Facilitating green deals on the national level between private companies, civil society, researchers, and local and regional governments to work together to turn environmental objectives into economic opportunities that will optimize the use of resources, create new jobs and add value for inhabitants;
3. *Encourages* Member States to join the GACERE working closely together with the UNIDO and UNEP to identify knowledge and governance gaps in advancing a global circular economy and to take forward partnership initiatives;
4. *Further encourages* Member States to facilitate the implementation of programs on the local level in order to educate and sensitize the population about the importance of recycling, by:
 - a. Connecting with the initiative “Repair Café” to create free meeting places where volunteers share their repair skills in all kinds of fields to educate people on the concept

of recycling and to promote the idea and its impact on the regeneration and improvement of biodiversity;

- b. Proposing practical classes in schools where students together with specialists start making their own repairs in order to expand the concept of recycling and to implement habits that will sustain the future by drawing on the knowledge and tools provided by the Initiative "Repair Café";
 - c. Acquiring money for the projects through working together with the UNEPs Environment Fund;
5. *Raising* awareness to foster local ecological efforts towards sustainable businesses in attempts to mitigate greater depletion within commerce, by:
- a. Cooperating with the IUCN in order to provide the private sector with information about changing ways of business values, management, and investing in nature to:
 - i. Demonstrate to the international business community the benefits of net income from biodiversity in and around their business;
 - ii. Inform the international business community about the opportunities for cooperation between businesses to stimulate nature conservation and large-scale investments in order to encourage them to design their business in a sustainable way;
 - b. Drawing attention to businesses focusing on the selling of repurposed articles such as clothing, furniture, technology, household appliances, and sports accessories;
 - c. Welcoming businesses focusing on offering a variety of products ranging from home, office, and business furnishing made entirely out of repurposed materials;
6. *Recommends* the General Assembly to regularly invite scientists, for example from the IPBES, and researchers from the field of the integrated life sciences as professional guest speakers before the General Assembly plenary when environmental or any natural scientific topics are discussed to inform the attending Member States about current scientific data;
7. *Stresses* the need for Member States to include citizen science programs within their own national biodiversity protectionary efforts to bring greater awareness about biodiversity loss and its effects to the civil society in order to foster citizen appreciation, connection to, and interest in biodiversity protection;
- a. Tailoring the programs to each nation's individual biological diversity needs;
 - b. Facilitating public, volunteer opportunities for biodiversity efforts, examples of which can include national data collection centers, nationally promoted public forums for citizen discussions on biodiversity, and nationally funded biodiversity courses;
 - c. Further incentivizing the inclusion of biodiversity curricula and protection practices in academic institutions;
 - d. Utilizing the UNEP Environment Fund to help allocate funding and resources for relevant citizen science programs and science-policy platforms;

8. *Encourages* the creation of Regional Biodiversity Initiatives (Regional Conservation Agendas) to simulate the CAFI to promote effective and sustainable biodiversity protection for development through policy review and programmatic work;
9. *Recommends* that the UNEP consult with the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) to create the Hands-on Environmental Awareness (HEAT) Course, an online training course fostering the exchange of information and education on the conservation of different environments, providing Member States with a platform to exchange practical knowledge on environmental protection between people active in the conservation of specific ecosystems, by:
 - a. Focusing on and facilitating a peer-to-peer exchange between park rangers, conservationists, environmental workers, and indigenous peoples, as these professionals have first-hand experience when it comes to the daily work needed to conserve their respective environments, and their point of view is of utmost importance when it comes to keeping an ecosystem vibrant and alive;
 - b. Requesting IPBES to incorporate within their 2030 work program panel discussions by academics researching the topic from all over the world on the advantages of protecting different ecosystems and thereby securing biodiversity while moving towards the IPBES aim to strengthen the science-policy interface concerning the use and conservation of biodiversity;
 - c. Cooperating with specialized programs, such as the IDDP for the conservation of respective ecosystems;
10. *Invites* all Member States to create partnerships between all Member States that encourage a sense of equality and fairness by:
 - a. Targeting, along with greater disbursements of climate aid to Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, clean energy projects, ocean protection projects, and climate action projects with agendas that recognize the cross-cutting aspects of gender and biodiversity;
 - b. Sharing relevant knowledge associated with biodiversity protection efforts between countries including biodiversity technologies and innovation, to partner with the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Service, which manages system services that allow crowd influxes, measures, and analyzes information;
11. *Encourages* all Member States and their corporate entities to invest in least developed countries through the establishment of an internationally traded investment fund focusing on increasing the manufacturing capacity of developing countries into renewable resources by:
 - a. Expansion of a fund patterned on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) focusing on the delivery of funding and technical assistance for nations that meet the definition of a least developed country encouraging funding between economic production and biological conservation to provide new technologies to address climate change, impact economic growth, and strategies to benefit the international community further;
 - b. Advancing commercial areas that serve as regional centers of commerce and development, and proportionate redistribution of cash flows for projects related to

sustainable development based on projects submitted to the committee of the Nordic Development Fund;

- c. Further ensuring redistribution of cash flows into projects related to sustainable development based on an annual review of all projects submitted to the committee based on their demonstrated and projected effectiveness of the use of funds to accomplish the goals of the fund based on their demonstrated and projected effectiveness of the use of funds to accomplish the goals of the fund;
 - d. Recommending the campaign on a climate change project, a radical change based on sustainable development, defined as an evolution for economic progress by incentivizing initiatives that teach children how to behave in order to save the environment from biodiversity emergencies;
12. *Advises* all Member States develop legislation basis and policies that encourage concessions to firms that respect existing - environmental goals and standards that affect ecological goals, which enables businesses to adhere to universal sustainability principles to improve long-term sustainability, thereby fostering green ideas and innovative production methods;
13. *Further recommends* collaboration between state and non-state actors to ensure successful long-term sustainability utilizing UN-affiliated bodies such as the ILO and NGOs by promoting green jobs through training, workshops, and community outreach, by:
 - a. Bringing attention to best farming and gardening practices for sustainable agriculture for developing Member States by partnering with NGOs that encourage young populations through training networks that promote sustainability;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to craft national legislations that incentivizes green farming practices;
 - c. Further encouraging Member States to work within SDG 5 to achieve gender equality within their respective nations, specifically as it pertains to female participation in agricultural sectors focusing on:
 - i. Achieving gender parity in education towards regenerative agricultural practices through supporting women-lead knowledge transfer groups;
 - ii. Achieving gender nondiscrimination towards land ownership, especially in rural areas;
 - iii. Empowering women and girls and supporting the transition of their farmland towards regenerative and restorative agricultural practices;
14. *Enhances* the academic and public debates about the protection of biodiversity in the Member States with challenging geography as landlocked developing states (LLDS) and small island developing states (SIDS) by:
 - a. Organizing a UN Summit in Autumn 2022 on “Preservation of biodiversity and its contribution to the sustainable development in LLDS and SIDS”;
 - b. Evaluating of the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
 - c. Working on the measurements for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

- d. Encouraging the Global Environmental Facility, UNEP and UN Development to financially support the Summit initiative;
15. *Recommends* the launch of an Open-Ended Working Group to develop the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by:
 - a. Conducting a comprehensive analytical study on the aspects of nature protection that have to be prioritized for effective prevention of distinction of the species and Fjordan ecosystems;
 - b. Holding the consultation on the regional and local level as well as among the countries that have similar ecosystems and geography as landlocked or small island states;
16. *Encourages* Member States to institute programs regarding “sea-forestation” - the practice of reintroducing kelp and other seagrasses into blighted areas of the ocean and reintroducing known keystone species in those respective environments in an effort to restore the diversity of those areas which is:
 - a. Fully conscious of the difficulties that some countries may have for the lack of information regarding “sea-forestation” practices;
 - b. Supporting the research and development of what species in blighted oceanic areas should be introduced;
 - c. Calling upon Member States to create an online resource for governments and individuals to have access to scientifically sound practices and how to implement them on the individual and macro scale;
17. *Calls for* Member States, NGOs, and other stakeholders to hold an annual Memorandum of Understanding in support of those countries whose citizens face daily violence stemming from conflict and how those situations impede biodiversity conservation by:
 - a. Seeking to alter focus and priorities to contribute to sustainable development and preventing biodiversity loss from a constant fear of violence, where priorities fall with surviving;
 - b. Suggesting the production of a report in which specific vulnerabilities resulting from conflict are identified and offer recommendations for the protection of currently affected flora and fauna;
18. *Encourages* Member States to work with the BIOFIN to develop and implement PSE such as market friction reductions, subsidies, and tradable permits;
19. *Invites* all Member States and NGOs to host educational activities on the international day of biodiversity with the support of the UNEP for children and youth;
20. *Encourages* Member States to invest in reforestation efforts to bolster the diversity of species in their respective countries by:
 - a. Urging Member States to support the efforts of the Bonn Challenge to achieve more diverse levels of biodiversity in forest regions;

- b. Strongly supporting Member States to expand educational access to forest preservation;
 - c. Recommending a reforestation plan of action to be authored and implemented within Member States;
21. *Recommends* all Member States to take the legal provisions required to adopt the following policies to promote eco-tourism:
- a. Planning the number of tourists and routes;
 - b. Promoting a social-distancing and eco-friendly mode of transportation;
 - c. Encouraging local communities to participate in the organization of tours;
 - d. Establishing measures to minimize waste production;
 - e. Offering activities to generate awareness among tourists about the importance of preserving biodiversity;
22. *Encourage* Member States to continue implementing an ecotourism circular economy through:
- a. Generating funds from their already existing biodiversity resources and sites as part of the tourism attraction agenda;
 - b. Using the funds generated by the tourism sector to further protect and conserve biodiversity attraction or through the implementation of a strategy for developing special areas of conservation;
 - c. Further promoting ecotourism in the new protected areas;
23. *Suggests* the drafting and distribution of the United Nations Guide to Ecotourism and Biodiversity Conservation under the auspices of the CBD secretariat to recommend best practices for Member States to adopt national ecotourism circular economies as a form of uniform accountability;
24. *Considers* investment in the ecotourism industry, by:
- a. Creating protected areas reserved for wildlife in an effort to inspire conservation, research, and education for domestic and foreign visitors;
 - b. Reinvesting 30% of the Member States' annual infrastructure budget into more sustainable infrastructure such as hydroelectric power stations, bioswales, and permeable pavements in established areas of high tourism-based traffic to lessen environmental damage;
 - c. Building attractions to foster tourism, focused on activities that highlight experiences in natural areas;
 - d. Utilizing good publicity provided by eco-friendly and green tourism attractions to encourage sustainability and conservation;

25. *Further* proclaims the need to work alongside organizations such as the Community of Caribbean and Latin American States (CELAC) for the green tourism industry in Member States that rely on the industry that will invest its earnings directly into protection of biological diversity, by:
- a. Managing tourist sites that directly benefit from the ecosystem of their location and encouraging maintenance of the balance of the biodiversity within that area including, but not limited to:
 - i. Responsible waste management by taking the UN's 'Greening the Blue' initiative campaign as an example: improving waste management practices in tourism offices;
 - ii. Removal of invasive species by expanding the Removing Barriers to Invasive Species Management in Production and Protection Forests in South East Asia (FORIS) to regions where invasive species are detrimental to the ecosystem;
 - iii. Responsible usage of fresh water in accordance with the Water Action Decade (2018-2028) implemented by the UN;
 - b. Raising awareness of micro-finance for investment currently available under the Rio+20 outcome document to promote sustainable practices amongst member states and corporations;
26. *Suggests* the continuation of the Aichi Targets Follow up Forum (Aichi F2), a knowledge sharing and communications initiative governed by the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force (ABTTF) centered on the creation of reports on the progress of events on the problems and goals set in order to bring information to the public and any other stakeholder interested in the incorporation of said data into their activities, by:
- a. Reforming the structures set during the mandated time of the Aichi to extend their functions for 10 more years following the end of the previous mandate cycle until 2021;
 - b. Calling for the continuation of the Aichi Sharing Platform for the continued cooperation on the topic of biodiversity conservation practices and problems that remain unresolved after the end of the decade for the conservation of biodiversity alongside the United Nations Statistics Division.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/8

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Reaffirming the Paris Climate Agreement, ratified by 196 Member States as a breakthrough in the fight against climate change,

Supporting the development of a post-2020 biodiversity framework based upon the Bio-Bridge Initiative Web Platform, which allows Member States to more easily share technological and scientific information regarding biodiversity, beginning with General Assembly resolutions 74/219 (2020) and 75/269 (2021), which establish a baseline for preserving biodiversity and implementing sustainable standards, in order to mitigate the issues caused by an extensive loss of biodiversity,

Deeply disturbed by the current rates of deforestation at 10 million hectares a year seen around the globe,

Recognizing the General Assembly's focus on sustainable development as an essential means of generating revenue and expanding economies, as referenced in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development under goals 7, affordable and clean energy, 8, decent work and economic growth, and 15, life on land,

Noting forested areas as carbon sinks and that the expansion and restoration of forests will provide new carbon sinks that absorb CO₂ out of the atmosphere,

Affirming the critical role that The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD), which is a partnership between United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), plays in international efforts to combat deforestation and reduce forest emissions by founding, sponsoring, modifying international biodiversity frameworks like the United Nations Biodiversity Conference,

Further recalling UN General Assembly resolutions 76/207 (2017) in which it acknowledged the importance of substantially implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as General Assembly resolution 75/218 in which it noted combating desertification can lead to sustainable development for all,

Emphasizing the potential for ecosystem protection, restoration, and growth through organizations such as the World Bank's Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice, and the Green Climate Fund that finance and strengthen regional and national projects and the ecological benefits associated with funding resources to these programs,

Alarmed by the fact that there are 1.7 million undiscovered infectious diseases in mammals and birds, and 827,000 of these diseases can infect humans,

Concerned by the risks of further ecosystem degradation and deforestation if the World Bank's Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice is not provided adequate funding to maintain existing projects, and begin new projects,

Understanding the need to protect the habitats of insects, animals, and plant life, as well as the protection of forest lands, as stated in Goals 1 and 3 of The Global Forest Goals Report of 2021, since destruction by human activities such as logging threatens the integrity of forests and the entire food chain,

Regretting that half of all extinctions in the past 400 years have been from island species within Small Island Developing States according to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity,

Reaffirming the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and its framework to protect the environment when building and maintaining multilateral partnerships as well as its success with mobilizing policies and finances,

Concerned by the fact that there has been little integration of technology to track deforestation within Member States through the Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability (AIES),

Noting with regret that the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which is a vital agency for the enhancement of food market transparency and multilateral cooperation during crises, is only implemented in the G20 states and not on a global basis,

Emphasizing the need to extend the use of AMIS as an international inter-agency partnership to enhance food market transparency and policy response for food policy on a global basis to fight poverty substantially,

1. *Suggests* that all Member States should ratify the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement to support the global effort to halt climate change and preserve biodiversity;
2. *Urges* Member States to implement and expand programs such as the Bio-Bridge Initiative Web Platform by informing Member States of the existing resources and encouraging them to create National Action Plans which could be developed through the use of the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre that endorses knowledge-sharing and technological and scientific cooperation;
3. *Encourages* reforestation programs such as the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), which focus on knowledge sharing, to replace the trees lost since the Industrial Revolution with non-invasive flora and plant life, by:
 - a. Expressing its hopes that reforestation programs will restore ecosystems that have been lost to development and resource extraction;
 - b. Further encouraging the enhancement of UN reforestation programs such as the UNFF under the United Nations Environmental Committee (UNEA) and the Regional Forestry Programs under the FAO;
 - c. Emphasizing cooperation with national parks and Member State environment ministries as well as NGOs like the Nature Conservancy as the primary entities that engage in reforestation;
 - d. Drawing attention to the adverse effects, like the extinction of native species and soil degradation in impacted ecosystems, that the introduction of invasive species has to native habitats;
 - e. Commending UNEP to develop strategies for reforestation that can be used for agricultural and economic purposes like samplings that not only help restore the

ecosystem but provide a renewable resource that can help feed and employ citizens to better the health and financial stability of all people while protecting ecosystems;

- f. Recommending incentives through UNEP research grants for universities for preserving ecosystems through the International Association of Universities under UNESCO for research into the interaction of organisms within an ecosystem and how changes in organism populations affect and damage ecosystems to promote the protection and expansion of natural ecosystems:
 - i. Including international economic spotlights on Member States' industries and non-governmental organizations that promote reforestation respect, grow, or contribute to ecosystem restoration and protection efforts;
 - ii. Encouraging invitations to participate in and host annual international conferences, like the Convention of Biological Diversity, to discuss the state of ecosystems preservation and highlight successful environmental protection programs;
4. *Focuses* on achieving SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 8 on economic growth, through:
 - a. Encouraging reforestation by partnering with groups like Eden Reforestation Projects, the Mesopotamia Revitalization Project, and other local reforestation movements;
 - b. Investing in communities and growing job opportunities through the increased biodiversity these projects work towards;
 5. *Recommends* that the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) works with Member States to provide unique regional solutions to increase the number of carbon sinks and invest in carbon capture technology for carbon-intensive industries;
 6. *Invites* Member States to join the UN-REDD program which is a partnership between UNEP, FAO, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and supports partnerships in protecting forests and achieving climate and sustainable development goals;
 7. *Endorses* cooperation between UN-REDD and national REDD+ programs through the distribution of funding focused on the results-based payment schemes already established within the UN REDD+ program in order to provide assistance with reforestation programs;
 8. *Asks* the General Secretariat of the Conference of Parties to establish the Biological Economic Biodiversity Meeting (BERM), chaired by the Executive Secretary who will set the agenda, where Parties of the CBD can:
 - a. Discuss the financing for future projects that benefit biodiversity by providing the possibility for UN Member States and NGOs to unite, share ideas and support economic recovery as well as strengthen Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to fulfill the 2030 Agenda, to ensure that no Member State is being left behind as stated in Principle Two of the Universal Values of the United Nations;
 - b. Get together and exchange information regarding biodiversity preservation and improvement at the Conference of Parties 16 of the CBD as a side panel to strengthen cooperation between LDCs and non-LDCs;

9. *Urges* Member States to contribute additional resources that will enhance the efforts of the World Bank's Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice, and the United Nations Environmental Agency (UNEA) that fund crucial projects like the Badia Restoration Program and the Sustainable Land Management and Restoration in the Middle East and North Africa Region to LDCs with endangered ecosystems and biodiversity prospects;
10. *Requests* Member States to collaborate with the FAO, World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), and the World Health Organization (WHO) in order to build guidelines and best practices for the handling of live, and dead animals which can lead to disease outbreaks, and strategies such as monitoring habitat losses and expanding regulations regarding the trade and use of wildlife which would allow for better prevention and management of zoonotic infectious diseases such as the COVID-19 pandemic;
11. *Recommends* Member States' work under the UN Food Security Initiative (UNFSI), and better fund the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide excess grain and meat that would balance out the need to clear forests for farmland:
 - a. Recommends increased grants and funding from the developed Member States to the WFP that gives cash and vouchers for food to citizens that cannot afford it, balancing out the need for increased farmland;
 - b. Incentivizes developing Member States to contribute surplus agricultural products to regional Member States by providing additional economic assistance through the UNDP;
12. *Calls for* the adoption of sustainable logging practices with an eventual goal of ending the unsustainable practice as an alternative to deforestation in order to prevent further biodiversity loss and species extinction, which reshape and destroy important ecosystems, by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to limit logging corporations to working within preexisting tree farms;
 - b. Suggesting the incentivization of forest restoration projects and the creation of corporate exit plans in forests be enacted over the following decades;
 - c. Further encouraging LDCs to utilize funds and support from the UN Capital Development Program to finance public and private sector sustainable development initiatives and forest restoration projects;
 - d. Recommending a stop to unsustainable and irresponsible logging practices in favor of a more accountable and moral industry;
13. *Supports* the protection of fragile island ecosystems which are threatened by deforestation, by:
 - a. Requesting the UNEP to identify worldwide island ecologies which are directly threatened by anthropogenic climate change;
 - b. Asking UNEP to distinguish the unique needs of island ecologies as compared to mainland ecologies for the purposes of providing information and funding to regional environmental organizations like Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and local Member State environment ministries;

14. *Proposes* a system to promote transparency and accountability in industrial practices under existing infrastructure, such as the AAAA and the United Nations Digital Financing Task Force (DFTF), which utilize public-private partnerships for communication and wealth-generating measures;
15. *Encourages* the creation of a publicly accessible database in partnership with corporations operating in Member States to identify and report potential risks to the environment that could arise from their activities;
16. *Calls upon* Member States to collaborate with the private sectors operating within their borders to facilitate reinvestment into conservation efforts within wetlands, by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to require companies with environmentally hazardous operations (specifically the mining, logging, energy, agriculture, and fishing industries) to reinvest up to 5% of their profits into local conservation initiatives;
 - b. Requesting Member States to reallocate subsidies given to companies with environmentally hazardous operations to local sustainable operations;
 - c. Taking note of the potential benefits for LDCs when developed Member States waive their intellectual property rights for green technology and ecosystem protections;
17. *Recommends* the integration of the AIES modeler in Member States under the name “Artificial intelligence for deforestation preservation” that is instructed to:
 - a. Identify the number of trees in specific areas;
 - b. Identify the human activity, which is the visiting rates of humans and the number of trees that can be extracted by humans in given areas based on the results of clause 13 a;
 - c. Share data about best practices in combating deforestation in given areas;
18. *Encourages* the implementation of AMIS in all UN Member States to provide the possibility to adapt agriculture to climate change and desertification to small-scale family farms, by:
 - a. Using sustainable forms of organic agriculture instead of conventional forms of agriculture which severely threatens the ecosystem;
 - b. Facilitating calculation of inputs, outputs, and profits to help small-scale family-owned farms to cope with environmental disasters such as droughts, flooding and wildfire as well as tackle poverty while also boosting competition on the global market;
 - c. Ensuring that severe economic impacts from disasters are being prevented;
19. *Requests* the collaboration between UNDP and ECOSOC to call on the FAO to:
 - a. Organize and chair a side panel at the 2023 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture where the global expansion of AMIS and climate change as well as its impacts on agriculture and thus the transformation of the agricultural sector can be discussed between the interested Member States and the AMIS Food Global Information Market Group;

- b. Revive the AMIS exchange programme of 2014-2015 and extend the programme by bringing together representatives of national focal points and representatives of interested non-AMIS Member States;
- c. Recommend technical assistance such as building up capacities, providing the necessary equipment and training for officials to implement, administrate and maintain the AMIS concerning the implementation and realization of AMIS and incorporate this objective in their future strategic documents.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/9

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Highlighting the importance of business transparency in regards to environmental action and policy,

Keeping in mind the need to continually stimulate the economy in a sustainable way, as noted in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 goal targets,

Recognizing the importance of fishing and subsistence hunting lifestyles to island and coastal countries that rely upon these industries as a primary means of generating income,

Noting with concern that anthropomorphic noise is a major global pollutant that creates biological discord in hearing abilities of aquatic species,

Keeping in mind the artificial sabotage of oceans, rivers, streams, and highland watersheds that are vital to economy, agriculture and identity of a downstream nation, such as the construction of the Three Gorges which freed thousands of acres for farming,

Concerned about the continued deterioration of freshwater ecosystems, which contribute to a third of global biodiversity loss as expressed in the United Nations SDG Nature's Dangerous Decline,

Affirming that tourism and travel contributed approximately 4.7 trillion USD to the global economy and is a key industry in many countries,

Reaffirming the right of indigenous communities, as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to actively contribute to environmental governance,

Confirming the need for information sharing to raise awareness as set forth in the report of the Regional Consultation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Observing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights position that clean drinking water is a human right and that the causal effect CO₂ has on rising ocean levels poses an existential threat to coastal population centers as shown by the IPCC sixth assessment report,

Bearing in mind Sustainable Development Goal 14, which seeks an international commitment to reduce ocean pollution through continued reduction of CO₂ emissions from developed nations and contribution to creating carbon sinks and reducing the number of carbon sources, as well as measurements for reduction of oil pollution in aquatic regions,

Acknowledging the International Decade for Action by United Nations Water which emphasized the continued degradation of coastal water quality, especially noting that Caribbean waters contain 80% of total litter within that region, according to UN Ocean Conference,

1. *Encourages* Member States to implement further monitoring of the chemical and biological condition of coastal waters, through:

- a. The cooperation of Indigenous communities, and biological experts to exchange knowledge of coastal waters with one another such as PH measurements, algal bloom monitoring, oxygenation measurements, subsistence hunting methods, pollution management;
 - b. Implementation of similar programs or projects such as The United Nations Decade for Water (2005-2015);
2. *Welcomes* funding of the Global Environment Facility for investing in the regular maintenance of wastewater treatment plants for developing nations of the G77 (134 Member States), by:
 - a. Ensuring the proper management of filtering nitrogen and phosphorus out of freshwater bodies;
 - b. Subsequently preventing the mass nutrient pollution of freshwater ecosystems;
 - c. Inhibiting further depletion of oxygen levels in the aforementioned ecosystems;
 - d. Strengthening the defense against the tampering of upstream sources;
3. Encourages the creation of equitable resource sharing programs for Member States in low water and landlocked areas by:
 - a. Suggesting that these programs should encourage Member States cooperation for better access to water areas through programs such as pipelines, aquifers, as would be appropriate for the specific circumstance for the Member States;
 - b. Reinforcing that water is a human right and is crucial to the development of all economies and the sharing of resources is beneficial to the global community;
4. *Advocates* for the establishment of a biotechnology committee under United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to better implement practices to protect biological diversity, through:
 - a. The improvement of agricultural practices, as they are currently the second largest contributor to biodiversity loss;
 - b. The reduction of pesticide use and toxic levels in herbicide use;
 - c. The condemnation of any future developments of biotechnological weapons;
 - d. The encouragement of proliferating developments relating to biotechnology;
 - e. The protection of biological diversity within island nations;
5. *Highlights* the importance of knowledge sharing between scientists and indigenous communities, by:
 - a. The implementing of cooperative workshops organized by the committee, in which scientists and members of the indigenous community can share best practices to help prevent environmental crises and promote sustainable development;
 - b. Creating a database to educate the general populace about indigenous practices;

- c. The development of Youth Programs to raise awareness on biological diversity issues such as the Irish Water Biodiversity Action Plan which includes school age children in water protection initiatives;
 - d. Integrating indigenous people in environmental governance, by:
 - i. Emphasizing the required consent from indigenous people and local communities for conservation and development initiatives;
 - ii. Allowing indigenous people to manage land according to their own practices to strengthen traditional practices that would help conservation;
 - iii. Promoting the listing of heritage sites via the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to aid conservation;
 - e. Funded by programs put forward by Member States, for example, the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the assistance of their national fiscal foreign aid grant program the Program Project Grant;
6. *Affirms* continued funding of institutions that monitor coastal regions in order to:
- a. Prevent overfishing by continued collaboration with the Division for Oceanic Affairs and the Law of the Seas (DOALOS);
 - b. Maintain the sovereignty of indigenous lands to protect the food supply of indigenous peoples as affirmed by the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (UNDRIP), article 8, section 2, clause B;
 - c. Protect coral reefs in collaboration with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Project, which is funded by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP);
7. *Urges* Member States to evaluate their subsidy allocation to multinational corporations headquartered in said countries in order to assess and prevent monetary support of mass pollution, specifically addressing large multinational corporations with substantive net worth, by:
- a. Formulating a suggested framework that Member States can independently institute within their jurisdiction;
 - b. Providing incentives that include, but are not limited to, tax reductions and aim towards global pollution reduction, combatting biodiversity loss;
 - c. Encouraging transparency and cooperation between all member states and multinational companies;
8. *Directs attention* towards the consequences of anthropomorphic noise in aquatic environments and calls for noise mitigation strategies to protect invertebrate and other disrupted aquatic species, by:
- a. Prioritizing collection of biological data to make aquatic zoning laws;
 - b. Creating buffer zones around already protected areas;
 - c. Implementing an international marine certification program, similar to the Green Marine Certification Program, that requires noise reduction in ships;

- d. Setting a global standard for an acceptable noise barrier in international ports;
9. *Stresses* the relevance of expanding regional databases containing essential information on biological diversity metrics, by:
 - a. Cooperating with indigenous communities and UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for continuous measurement and monitoring of defined metrics on biological diversity in the sense of the term as defined in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), gathering of this information through national institutions;
 - b. Sharing the collected data with UN Biodiversity Lab (UNBL) with the aim of enriching the existing database and providing an overarching foundation for evidence-based decision making on biodiversity issues, by encouraging to provide the data as open access to the public;
 - c. Using this database on biological diversity for transparent monitoring of biological diversity issues and identification of particularly vulnerable areas;
10. *Encourages* international scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer, by:
 - a. Strengthening the Bio-Bridge Initiative, proposed by the Republic of Korea at the COP 2014;
 - b. Using tools and mechanisms of best practices, including an interactive web platform, meetings, roundtables, helpdesk services and a small seed funding facility;
 - c. Implementing the strategies of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Swarovski Water School to educate children and municipal community members on the importance of sustainable water management, sanitation, and the importance of safe water and sanitation facilities;
11. *Further* proclaims the need to work alongside organizations such as the Community of Caribbean and Latin American States (CELAC), for the green tourism industry in Member States that rely on the industry that will invest its earnings directly into protection of biological diversity, by:
 - a. Managing tourist sites that directly benefit from the ecosystem of their location and encouraging maintenance of the balance of the biodiversity within that area including, but not limited to:
 - i. Responsible waste management by taking the UN's 'Greening the Blue' initiative campaign as an example: improving waste management practices in tourism offices;
 - ii. Removal of invasive species by expanding the Removing Barriers to Invasive Species Management in Production and Protection Forests in South East Asia (FORIS) to regions where invasive species are detrimental to the ecosystem;
 - iii. Responsible usage of fresh water in accordance with the Water Action Decade (2018-2028) implemented by the UN;
 - b. Raising awareness of micro-finance for investment currently available under the Rio+20 outcome document to promote sustainable practices amongst member states and corporations;

- c. Endorsing the decision of the United States to phase out offshore oil drilling by 2030 in the Gulf of Mexico for the purposes of preventing continual destruction of the surrounding environment;
12. *Reaffirms* the partnership between the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and Latin American Countries with the United Nations for the funding of the database on biological diversity by including a UN special Rapporteur on biodiversity and human rights of the United Nations Human Development Report (UNHDR) and reinforcing the OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework and Strategic Action Plans (OECS-BEF);
13. *Recommends* the enhancement of the Water Web Consortium (WWC) to include a Summit on Fresh Water Security and Biodiversity under the United Nations Environmental Program to act as a forum for dialogue on policy recommendation and best practices to mitigate the threat to loss of biodiversity due to fresh water pollution.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/10

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling the UN General Assembly resolution 76/207 on the “Convention on Biodiversity and its contribution to Sustainable Development”, along with the *Paris Climate Accords* (2015), which call for all Member States to take initiative towards implementing state policies regarding climate action, and specifically acknowledging biodiversity loss within all regions,

Referring to the General Assembly resolution 70/1 on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2015), which invites the Member States to develop and implement sustainable development practices by orienting policy-building efforts toward collective standards for the immediate future,

Considering the alarming report made by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) addressing the link between the degradation of nature and increasing pandemic risks,

Reaffirming the significance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and committing to General Assembly resolution 76/202 “Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21”,

Reiterating the importance of achieving the *2050 Vision for Biodiversity* in protecting biodiversity throughout all Member States, and the need for a sustainable future, which entails a world of “Living in harmony with nature” and its scenarios for upcoming socioeconomic development showcase that there are a variety of conceivable outcomes in terms of urbanization, technological advancements, and urbanization,

Acknowledging General Assembly resolution 75/271 “Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation - a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use,” and recognizing the importance of protecting vulnerable species and ecosystems through the adaptation of cooperative programs,

Lamenting the fact that over 50% of the world’s animal species have gone extinct in the past 50 years,

Taking into account the efforts of the Strategic Environmental Analysis (SEA), which demonstrate the positive impact of multidisciplinary policies and strategies on the environment,

Reminding the Member States to utilize the United Nations biodiversity lab, a cheap and effective way to use the ecological data gathered by different scientific organizations to ensure that countries are aware of the valuable and varied environments within their borders that need to be protected,

Considering that 68% of the world’s population is expected to live in urban areas by 2050, underlining the capital importance of the preservation of biodiversity in urban environments,

Reaffirming the need for sustainable urban development as part of the SDG 11(Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable),

Keeping in mind the UN-Habitat vision of “a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world” and its efforts to implement changes in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative actions,

Recognizing the importance of the work of organizations such as the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) as a network working towards system changes by developing integrated solutions to transform urban areas to respond to climate change and ecosystem degradation,

Building upon the work of organizations such as the ICLEI, but stressing that regional groups of interest of the same nature but of larger size are necessary to have a true impact,

Underlining that traditional working groups such as the Group of Asia-Pacific States or the African States, based on geographical position alone, are not adequate when discussing the protection of biodiversity,

Convinced that any framework for the protection of biodiversity must take into account the ecosystems and economic capabilities of different states when determining regionally applicable plans,

Guided by the Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF), which offers a universal framework to track the implementation and performance of urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA),

Welcoming the decrease in the cost of generating renewable energy in the last decade and the development of more efficient solar cell technology with an increase from 30 to 40% energy efficiency,

Praising the efforts of numerous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and businesses in sustainable architecture, notably terrablock and other mudbrick technologies,

Accounting for SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals) which underlines the crucial need for multilateral cooperation, as already done by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP),

Applauding the work of the 13th Conference of the Parties on the CBD on creating the Urban Biodiversity Hub (UBHub) (2016), which promotes measurable biodiversity effectiveness and efficiency of biodiversity planning in urban areas,

1. *Requests* Member States further the diversification of sustainable development practices within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by:
 - a. Recalling the 17 December 1993 Convention on Biological Diversity, which advances transformative action with regards to the standardization of international standards on biological diversity thresholds;
 - b. Noting the consolidation of standards on biological diversity advances transformative action with regards to the achievement of the SDGs in the immediate future;
 - c. Further encouraging regional and international intergovernmental cooperation on this matter, as it:
 - i. Invites informative circulation of best practices and resources on policy-building in an effort to provide Member States with the necessary tools to further the implementation of sustainable technologies and reduce environmental degradation rates;
 - ii. Promotes the diversification of sustainable development initiatives by orienting domestic and multilateral policy-building efforts;
2. *Recommends* that all Member States work closely with the Urban Development Program of the World Bank in order to reallocate a percentage of funds, at the Member States discretion, into pre-existing industry sectors in order to implement new renewable energy sectors, namely by:
 - a. Focusing on renewable public transportation sectors and sustainable architecture projects;
 - b. Emphasizing the role of mudbrick technologies in architecture, like terrablock;

- c. Endorsing the support of renewable energy companies, namely by suggesting tax breaks or subsidies to renewable energy companies involved in public transportation;
 - d. Encouraging the creation of jobs on renewable energy and sustainable architecture;
- 3. *Encourages* Member States to develop partnerships between each other so as to share common economic and ecological profiles in order to:
 - a. Reinforce knowledge transfer on sustainable development by sharing eco-friendly and innovative technologies as well as scientific research on ecosystems, animals and plants as 6th World Cities Summit (WCS);
 - b. Build real estate construction capacity through international training programs and courses by cooperating between all Member States aimed at rehabilitation of well-qualified staff to apply laws on environmental matters;
 - c. Foster equitable resource sharing between Member States in the interest of helping countries create additional free trade areas for the benefit of all peoples by operating within the frameworks of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and other alike partnerships, which uphold economic partnerships;
 - d. Promote the “common but differentiated responsibilities” principle so that solutions are adapted to the financial, technological and human resources capacities of each Member States;
- 4. *Endorses* the use of urban ecological tools, such as the *Green Roof* initiative, that take advantage of unused spaces in dense urban areas to allow for biodiverse plant life that helps reduce pollution and pests while increasing quality of urban life by planting rooftop spaces;
- 5. *Invites* Member States to implement the UBHub for urban planning to collect data on the biodiversity status of native species of fauna and flora in terms of population sizes, geographical location of habitat, and level of endangerment and utilize it in the decision-making process of urban planning strategies and action plans;
- 6. *Proposes* the creation of the *BIOME* initiative planned in four phases, with the final aim of establishing a detailed framework that Member States may easily adopt and adapt in national building codes by:
 - a. Calling upon Member States to send experts on the topic of sustainable development around their territory for a period of maximum two years in order for them to gather information on best practices concerning sustainable urban planning and building practice;
 - b. Instructing the creation of a *Framework for the Urbanism of Tomorrow* aimed at developing best practices for urban development in the period 2026-2035, as a means of contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDG 11, which:
 - i. Acknowledges the existence of, and rehabilitating traditional building methods, notably thanks to the work of the observers;
 - ii. Encourage the research of new innovative sustainable building practices;
 - iii. Establish a list of the aforementioned building practices, such as green-to-gray ratios;
 - c. Recommending the creation of new regional working groups tasked with adapting the framework to the localized needs of Member States be formed based upon:
 - i. Geographical proximity and position;

- ii. Topographical features;
 - iii. Biodiversity already present within the state;
 - iv. Economic capabilities of the state in dealing with climate change and the preservation of its own biodiverse environments;
 - v. Social factors, notably within the context of urbanization;
 - d. Further proposing the monitoring of the framework by the aforementioned regional working once it has been adapted into local law, along with the support of projects within any state, participant or not, related to sustainable development, be it in the context of construction or research;
7. *Promotes* the creation of national biodiversity and economy planning task forces under the auspices of Member States' Ministries of Environment and Urban Planning to use the assessment framework set by the SEA to analyze their own proposed policies and plans concerning urbanization by:
- a. Using a structured assessment process that assesses the environmental impact on proposed policies and strategies;
 - b. Identifying mitigative measure;
 - c. Monitoring the development activities of these proposed policies and strategies in accordance with the SEA's recommendation;
8. *Reiterates* the importance of using technological methods of biodiversity conservation, namely by:
- a. Encouraging regional solutions to these issues through international cooperative efforts;
 - b. Recognizing that increased accessibility to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), mapping systems allowing policy makers to make informed decisions on endangered habitats, species, and populations, provides an inexpensive pathway for (LDCs) to source regional solutions to urbanization issues;
 - c. Stressing the importance of the 15th of the Sustainable Development Goals "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss" through the allocation of adequate proportions of land towards the preservation and building of green spaces, especially through the application of innovative technologies;
9. Expresses interest in expanding the *Bio-Bridge Initiative* (2014) to increase the spread and sharing of digital education, information, and technology to bridge the gap between Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and increase sustainable development practices;
10. *Highlights* the successes of urban farming models, such as the Sky Green model as they:
- a. Decrease the environmental impact of agricultural supply chains by providing local sources of food;
 - b. Draw attention to the reduction of harmful pollutants used in some conventional agricultural approaches;
 - c. Encourage Member States to reevaluate the feasibility of these models and seek to mimic them or pursue reasonable alternatives that achieve similar results.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/11

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling the UN General Assembly resolution 76/207 on the “Convention on Biodiversity and its contribution to Sustainable Development”, along with the 29 December 2015 *Paris Climate Accord*, which call for all Member States to take initiative towards implementing state policies regarding climate action, and specifically acknowledging biodiversity loss within all regions,

Referring to the General Assembly resolution 70/1 titled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”, which invites the Member States to develop and implement sustainable development practices by orienting policy-building efforts toward collective standards for the immediate future,

Considering the alarming report made by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), addressing the link between the degradation of nature and increasing pandemic risks,

Reaffirming the significance of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), and committing to Resolution 76/202 “Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21”,

Reiterating the importance of achieving the *2050 Vision for Biodiversity* in protecting biodiversity throughout all Member States, and the need for a sustainable future, which entails a world of “Living in harmony with nature” and its scenarios for upcoming socioeconomic development showcase that there are a variety of conceivable outcomes in terms of urbanization, technological advancements, and urbanization,

Acknowledging General Assembly Resolution 75/271 titled “Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation - a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use,” and recognizing the importance of protecting vulnerable species and ecosystems through the adaptation of cooperative programs,

Lamenting the fact that over 50% of the world’s animal species have gone extinct in the past 50 years,

Taking into account the efforts of the Strategic Environmental Analysis (SEA), which demonstrates the positive impact of multidisciplinary policies and strategies on the environment,

Reminding Member States to utilize the United Nations biodiversity lab, a cheap and effective way to use the ecological data gathered by different scientific organizations to ensure that countries are aware of the valuable and varied environments within their borders that need to be protected,

Considering that 68% of the world’s population is expected to live in urban areas by 2050, underlining the capital importance of the preservation of biodiversity in urban environments,

Reaffirming the need for sustainable urban development as part of the 11th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of *the 2030 Agenda* titled “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”,

Keeping in mind the UN-Habitat vision of “a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world” and its efforts to implement changes in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative actions,

Recognizing the importance of the work of organizations such as the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) as a network working towards system changes by developing integrated solutions to transform urban areas to respond to climate change and ecosystem degradation,

Building upon the work of organizations such as the ICLEI, but stressing that regional groups of interest of the same nature but of larger size are necessary to have a true impact,

Underlining that traditional working groups such as the Group of Asia-Pacific States or the African States, based on geographical position alone, are not adequate when discussing the protection of biodiversity,

Convinced that any framework for the protection of biodiversity must take into account the ecosystems and economic capabilities of different states when determining regionally applicable plans,

Guided by the Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF), which offers a universal framework to track the implementation and performance of urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA),

Welcoming the decrease in the cost of generating renewable energy in the last decade and the development of more efficient solar cell technology with an increase from 30 to 40% energy efficiency,

Praising the efforts of numerous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and businesses in sustainable architecture, notably terrablock and other mudbrick technologies,

Accounting for SDG 17, entitled “Partnership for the Goals,” which underlines the crucial need for multilateral cooperation, as already done by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP),

Applauding the work of the 13th Conference of the Parties on the CBD on creating the Urban Biodiversity Hub (UBHub) (2016), which promotes measurable biodiversity effectiveness and efficiency of biodiversity planning in urban areas,

1. *Requests* Member States further the diversification of sustainable development practices within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by:
 - a. Recalling the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, which advances transformative action with regards to the standardization of international standards on biological diversity thresholds;
 - b. Noting the consolidation of standards on biological diversity advances transformative action with regards to the achievement of the SDGs in the immediate future;
 - c. Further encouraging regional and international intergovernmental cooperation on this matter, as it:
 - i. Invites informative circulation of best practices and resources on policy-building in an effort to provide Member States with the necessary tools to further the implementation of sustainable technologies and reduce environmental degradation rates;
 - ii. Promotes the diversification of sustainable development initiatives by orienting domestic and multilateral policy-building efforts;
2. *Recommends* that all Member States work closely with the Urban Development Program of the World Bank in order to reallocate a percentage of funds, at the Member States discretion, into pre-existing industry sectors in order to implement new renewable energy sectors, namely by:
 - a. Focusing on renewable public transportation sectors and sustainable architecture projects;
 - b. Emphasizing the role of mudbrick technologies in architecture, like terrablock;

- c. Endorsing the support of renewable energy companies, namely by suggesting tax breaks or subsidies to renewable energy companies involved in public transportation;
 - d. Encouraging the creation of jobs on renewable energy and sustainable architecture;
- 3. *Encourages* Member States to develop partnerships between each other so as to share common economic and ecological profiles in order to:
 - a. Reinforce knowledge transfer on sustainable development by sharing eco-friendly and innovative technologies as well as scientific research on ecosystems, animals and plants as 6th World Cities Summit (WCS);
 - b. Build real estate construction capacity through international training programs and courses by cooperating between all Member States aimed at rehabilitation of well-qualified staff to apply laws on environmental matters;
 - c. Foster equitable resource sharing between Member States in the interest of helping countries create additional free trade areas for the benefit of all peoples by operating within the frameworks of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and other alike partnerships, which uphold economic partnerships;
 - d. Promote the “common but differentiated responsibilities” principle so that solutions are adapted to the financial, technological and human resources capacities of each Member States;
- 4. *Endorses* the use of urban ecological tools, such as the Green Roof initiative, that take advantage of unused spaces in dense urban areas to allow for biodiverse plant life that helps reduce pollution and pests while increasing quality of urban life by planting rooftop spaces;
- 5. *Invites* Member States to implement the UBHub for urban planning to collect data on the biodiversity status of native species of fauna and flora in terms of population sizes, geographical location of habitat, and level of endangerment and utilize it in the decision-making process of urban planning strategies and action plans;
- 6. *Proposes* the creation of the *BIOME* initiative planned in four phases, with the final aim of establishing a detailed framework that Member States may easily adopt and adapt in national building codes by:
 - a. Calling upon Member States to send experts on the topic of sustainable development around their territory for a period of maximum two years in order for them to gather information on best practices concerning sustainable urban planning and building practice;
 - b. Instructing the creation of a Framework for the Urbanism of Tomorrow aimed at developing best practices for urban development in the period 2026-2035, as a means of contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDG 11, which:
 - i. Acknowledges the existence of, and rehabilitating traditional building methods, notably thanks to the work of the observers;
 - ii. Encourage the research of new innovative sustainable building practices;
 - iii. Establish a list of the aforementioned building practices, such as green-to-gray ratios;
 - c. Recommending the creation of new regional working groups tasked with adapting the framework to the localized needs of Member States be formed based upon geographical proximity and position, topographical features, biodiversity already present within the state, economic capabilities of the state in dealing with climate change and the

preservation of its own biodiverse environments, social factors, notably within the context of urbanization;

- d. Further proposing the monitoring of the framework by the aforementioned regional working once it has been adapted into local law, along with the support of projects within any state, participant or not, related to sustainable development, be it in the context of construction or research;
7. *Promotes* the creation of national biodiversity and economy planning task forces under the auspices of Member States' Ministries of Environment and Urban Planning to use the assessment framework set by the SEA to analyze their own proposed policies and plans concerning urbanization by:
 - a. Using a structured assessment process that assesses the environmental impact on proposed policies and strategies;
 - b. Identifying mitigative measure;
 - c. Monitoring the development activities of these proposed policies and strategies in accordance with the SEA's recommendation;
 8. *Reiterates* the importance of using technological methods of biodiversity conservation, namely by:
 - a. Encouraging regional solutions to these issues through international cooperative efforts;
 - b. Recognizing that increased accessibility to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), mapping systems, allows policy makers to make informed decisions on endangered habitats, species, and populations, provides an inexpensive pathway for (LDCs) to source regional solutions to urbanization issues;
 - c. Stressing the importance of the 15th of the Sustainable Development Goals "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss" through the allocation of adequate proportions of land towards the preservation and building of green spaces, especially through the application of innovative technologies;
 9. *Expresses* interest in expanding the *Bio-Bridge Initiative* (2014) to increase the spread and sharing of digital education, information, and technology to bridge the gap between Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and increase sustainable development practices;
 10. *Highlights* the successes of urban farming models, such as the Sky Green model as they:
 - a. Decrease the environmental impact of agricultural supply chains by providing local sources of food;
 - b. Draw attention to the reduction of harmful pollutants used in some conventional agricultural approaches;
 - c. Encourage Member States to reevaluate the feasibility of these models and seek to mimic them or pursue reasonable alternatives that achieve similar results.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/12

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention of Biological Diversity and its Contribution of Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Keenly aware of forests' value in providing locations of safety and flourishing for flora and fauna in all regions of the world, as emphasized in the *United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, 2017-2030*,

Alarmed by the presence of only 16 Member States on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas and the insufficiency of the updates by participating Member States as well as the enormity of the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species,

Acknowledging the role that the convention of biological diversity has played on genetic resource sharing and protecting earth's' unique land and water spaces,

Recalling that Article 10 of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, calls for the involvement of local communities in the preservation of biodiversity and restoration of local ecosystems,

Recognizing the Convention on Biological Diversity's preamble the "close and traditional dependence of many indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles on biological resources, and the desirability of sharing equitably benefits arising from the use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components,"

Reaffirming the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan's Aichi Targets and the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals Targets,

Deeply concerned with Member States' inability to achieve the aforementioned targets following the report of the Special Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTTA),

Emphasizes the need to bring awareness of the biodiversity values and the steps that can be taken to conserve and use it sustainably,

Aware that the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification* estimates 24 billion tons of fertile soil are lost due to erosion annually,

Recognizing the important role that local farms have in less-developed countries and agricultural states,

Noting with deep concern the impact that high-carbon agricultural practices have on the global climate,

Deeply disturbed by the growing impact of invasive plant and animal species on Member States and challenges to indigenous species posed by the global economy, leading to extinction of native plants and animals,

Recognizing the need to address the global lack of genetic crop diversity and the epidemiological threat it poses to agricultural communities and the Global South,

Concerned with the current level of knowledge sharing among Member States as the lack of the spread of information and technology has disproportionate effects on developing nations due to developed nations benefiting more from the data and technology provided,

Stressing the need for a way of relaying information between businesses in each Member States to further establish a cohesive relationship between the two,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/201, "The Convention on Biological Diversity," which reiterates how the conservation of biodiversity is a concern for all of humankind,

Confident in the ability of microloans to support small farms focused on sustainability and therefore to help ameliorate soil erosion,

1. *Stresses* the strength of regional collaboration in implementing systems to bolster the conservation and protection of areas of rich biodiversity, encouraging Member States to:
 - a. Assess the biodiversity needs of their ecosystems;
 - b. Allocate individually appropriate spending to reach the United Nations Environmental Program's (UNEP) goal of US\$350 billion in ecological spending by 2030;
 - c. Work with neighboring Member States, Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), and UN bodies to implement the IUCN Green List's goals of Good Governance, Sound Design and Planning, Effective Management, and Successful Conservation Outcomes;
2. *Calls on* Member States that have not yet done so to integrate and adhere to the Red List of worldwide endangered species created by the IUCN, allowing for:
 - a. The creation of a reference point in the creation of a framework to regulate and assess the development and efforts of Member States in their responsibility towards the protection of endangered species;
 - b. The specific establishment of national conservation policies aimed at the regulation of all endangered species endemic to the country itself, and worldwide;
 - c. To reach common international community goals and strengthen coordination and focus international action;
3. *Reminds* Member States of the objectives and engagements of the Global Forest Goals according to the framework adopted by the Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to expand forest areas across their region, contributing to the diversity of flora and fauna;
 - b. Continuing the support to sustainable forest growth during and after COVID-19 pandemic recovery;
 - c. Utilizing educational tools such as class excursions, technology, and internships to promote awareness of local forest ecosystems;
4. *Encourages* Member States and regional cooperatives to launch funds supported, if appropriate, by the UN Capital Development Fund with the purpose of calling on local businesses, entrepreneurs, and NGOs to submit biodiversity protection projects and awarding grants, expert assistance and material assistance to selected projects in order to:

- a. Facilitate informed and effective vertical cooperation on biodiversity protection projects along the regional, national, and local levels and thus be able to better tailor responses to specific local needs;
 - b. Enable community members to be active in the preservation of their local ecosystems through volunteer contributions to such projects;
 - c. Offer involvement opportunities for members on all levels of the community, particularly women, members of minority groups, and indigenous people;
5. *Invites* Member States to draft and implement national and local feedback channels with the purpose of allowing indigenous peoples to share their knowledge on biodiversity preservation and offer a platform to facilitate an informed dialogue on best practices and cultural and social factors of biodiversity conservation;
6. *Authorizes* the United Nations Development Programme to enlarge its missions on the Food and Agricultural Commodity Strategies through agrological expertise, enabling Member States and NGOs to research and promote sustainable agricultural practices aimed towards reducing soil erosion and depletion through the acts of revegetation and technological development of soil-seed banks, increasing genetic crop diversity;
7. *Also encourages* developing Member States to allow for the implementation of local environmental task force tasked with:
 - a. The uprooting and dissipation of non-native plants in hindered farming regions;
 - b. The growing and propagating of native plants in ecosystems that have been damaged/degraded over time;
8. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to support small-scale farms through funding and regulatory policy;
9. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Assembly to take responsibility to explore region-specific solutions to the impact agricultural practices have on the environment outlines in the Food and Agriculture Organization's 2018 Report on Emissions Due to Agriculture;
10. *Strongly encourages* Member States to reduce agriculture-related carbon emissions, deforestation, and soil depletion by enacting policies to end slash-and-burn agriculture and other shifting cultivation agricultural practices;
11. *Intends* to establish an Annual Biodiversity Protection Forum with the goal to establish better working relations and sharing of information between Member States with an emphasis on sharing effective strategies, technologies, and legislation to conserve biological diversity and combat climate change;
12. *Expresses its hope* that Member States will be transparent in sharing information and technology with each other such as pollution rates;
13. *Emphasizes* the success of biodiversity-related conventions and hopes all Member States continue to attend and contribute to these conventions in order to gather the most accurate information;

14. *Advocates* for the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and other financial institutions to provide microloans to developing Member States to assist in the creation of ecosystem-specific sustainable farms.



National Model United Nations • NY

Code: 1/13

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention of Biological Diversity and its Contribution of Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations (UN) as set forth in the *Charter of the United Nations*, which includes solving international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems,

Emphasizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduced in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, specifically the goals of Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life On Land, and Partnerships for the Goals, which focus on an international call for action to address urgent issues regarding the environment and inequalities on a global level for the purpose of creating a lasting foundation for the future,

Acknowledging the work of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on initiatives such as the UN Biodiversity Lab and Bio-Bridge initiatives, and Web Platforms to promote the sharing of information and resources for biodiversity and sustainability efforts,

Bearing in mind the negative consequences posed by urbanization on surrounding ecosystems and biodiversity,

Guided by the need for a transition to clean industry, in which businesses upgrade their infrastructure and technology to primarily utilize renewable energy sources and minimize CO₂ emissions, as laid out in SDG Target 9.4,

Further concerned about the negative consequences of wasteful tourism such as excessive laundering services, the use of non-renewable fossil fuels in travel, massive disposals of human wastes from cruise ships into the oceans, and other pollutive activities on biodiversity and ecosystems,

Stressing the importance of monitoring international activity that damage the environment and biodiversity, and that go directly against the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,

Stressing the economic need for and the environmental benefits of ecotourism, which are the protection of natural habitat and pristine environments, education and increased awareness of endangered species and climate change, and improvement of quality of life, as outlined in General Assembly resolutions 65/148 (2010) and 65/173 (2010),

Fully aware of the need to shift towards renewable energy to slow the damage caused by overutilization of fossil fuels,

Deeply concerned with the lack of information in regards to the impact of urbanization on the state of local ecosystems due to the species displacement and habitat damage caused in the wake of rapid urbanization, including poor air and water quality, waste disposal problems, pollution, and high energy consumption both nationally and internationally,

Further recalling the gravity of the need to recover lost biodiversity and efforts to preserve the biodiversity that still exists,

Appreciating the importance of data collection and storage by bodies such as the World Data System (WDS) as a part of the International Science Council (ISC), and the efforts that go towards benefit-sharing, knowledge-sharing, hard data, research projects, and programs in better understanding biodiversity and creating mutual partnership across the globe,

Keeping in mind that domestic indigenous and rural communities may be restricted in their access to knowledge and information and the negative consequences that this has had on the conservation of biological diversity in these regions,

Further keeping in mind the success of Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) program and dedication to uplifting local and indigenous communities in conversations on biodiversity and sustainable development by United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

Taking into account that Member States may lack the infrastructure or resources required to increase research efforts due to a history of exploitation, colonialism, and imperialism which hindered social and economic development, and that multilateral cooperation via data sharing with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), which research and report environmental data, and the COP which consists of countries parties to the CBD and contribute positively to sustainable development, may be necessary to support endeavors to gather substantial information on local ecosystems, and biodiversity,

Recognizing the vital role that the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has in creating markets that open opportunities to achieve sustainable growth, addressing climate change, and biodiversity through the investments in the private sectors, guaranteeing loans, and offering advisory services made by the IFC,

Expressing hope in the organizations and systems already in place to provide a strong foundation for renewed efforts in improving both state and international economies, increasing the well-being of populations across the globe, providing adaptive measures to climate change, establishing transparency, and protecting environmental biodiversity,

1. *Advises* Member States to share any and all relevant environmental and biodiversity data, such as ecosystem and wildlife profiles, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste recycling rates and ratios to non-recyclable wastes, especially pertaining to the impact of urbanization and the harms of human industrialization, deforestation, excessive wastes, and harmful tourism practices on the environment, namely global warming, rising sea levels, loss of species, and air and water pollution, used for the protection of biodiversity and promoting sustainability, by:
 - a. Developing or using existing technologies such as the UN Biodiversity lab to effectively store and verify data, regarding the changes in the ecosystem from human activity, in a decentralized database that requires verification of data from an organized committee every three months;
 - b. Encouraging transparent collaboration and data sharing between Member States to successfully identify deficits and set achievable goals towards reaching environmental sustainability through tactics implemented by the WDS;

- c. Asking for reports on information such as the impact of urbanization on biodiversity and the environment, and data related to ecotourism to be collected and stored;
 - d. Sharing technologies available for sustainable development and maintaining biodiversity, and strategies for sustainable development and maintaining biodiversity;
 - e. Including the expertise of NGOs focused on biodiversity and conservation in research and organization, and pre-existing frameworks, which conduct research to facilitate policy development and facilitate independent dialogue between Member States, and their ability to work beyond government bounds allows for more fluidity;
2. *Calls* for policy-building that encourages an increase in recycling measures, elimination of unnecessary wastes, and a shift to sustainable energy sources to attain SDGs, especially targets 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, 13: Climate Action, 15: Life on Land, and 17: Partnerships for the Goals, to lessen the negative impact of pollutants in the environment;
3. *Further urges* Member States to institute eco-friendly initiatives, promoted by the 17 SDGs, in urban and tourist areas, by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to consent to NGO's access to data regarding pollution levels, gas emission levels, and progress made toward eco-friendly production and consumption;
 - b. Calling upon nations to collaborate with the Convention of the Parties (COP) and Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) to uphold CBD guidelines and goals towards clean industry and tourism, such as reducing fossil fuel emissions and pollution as defined by SDG 7;
 - c. Researching and making use of ecologically friendly and sustainable biofuels, to fill in energy gaps left by levels of access to current renewable energy sources;
4. *Commends* the implementation of more environmentally conscious practices and resources within urban areas and tourist attractions, such as:
 - a. Using less environmentally harmful materials like cement and plastic in the construction of buildings and other infrastructure;
 - b. Reducing wasteful and harmful practices like excessive laundering services, the use of non-renewable fossil fuels, and massive disposals of human wastes from cruise ships into the oceans;
 - c. Promoting eco-friendly practices like switching to sustainable mobility such as public transportation, cycling, carpooling, and electric vehicles, using solar energy and other renewable energy resources, and increasing the use of recycling and other facets of waste management;
5. *Recommends* the implementation of a platform under the supervision of organizations such as IBPES and WDS with the aim to support neighboring countries in their efforts to collaborate by identifying knowledge and data needs of our Member States, experts, and identifying relevant tools and facilitating their use, by:

- a. Utilizing or improving previously established initiatives of sharing biodiversity and sustainability information, resources, technologies, and strategies laid out by the IBPES;
 - b. Investing in a research collection database similar to The Noah's Ark National Biological Diversity database, however more specifically aimed towards tracking patterns of urbanization effects on species, and in which all data is to be stored and internationally accessible, made available for view and contribution for all Member States;
6. *Suggests* an interim transition to natural gas over crude oil and coal for countries member states to whom renewable energy sources are not readily available, so as to reduce carbon emissions and conserve non-renewable energy sources in efforts to protect plant and animal species from the harmful and long term effects of global warming while also providing long-term and more easily accessible alternatives;
7. *Advises* the successful utilization of and permanent transition to renewable and sustainable energy sources, openly sharing data on the process' progress and under regulation of the CBD, to recognize the importance of the deeply tied relationship between the economy and the biosphere and facilitate the merging of the two bodies into one;
8. *Encourages* Member States to partner with developing nations and increase international financial flow in support of funding efforts to create the infrastructure necessary to facilitate biodiversity and sustainability research endeavors, with support from the IFC due to the fact that developing nations may not have the funds to immediately address the issue of climate change and the decrease in biodiversity with other pressing matters that need addressed;
9. *Recommends* investment in ecotourism: which would reduce pollution waste, conserve natural areas, and establish longevity and sustainability in the tourism industry, by:
 - a. Creating protected areas reserved for wildlife in an effort to inspire conservation, research, and education for domestic and foreign visitors;
 - b. Recommending reinvestment of a Member States' annual infrastructure budget towards a designated portion for more sustainable infrastructure such as hydroelectric power stations, bioswales, and permeable pavements in established areas of high tourism-based traffic to lessen environmental damage;
 - c. Building attractions to foster tourism, focused on activities that highlight experiences in natural areas;
 - d. Utilizing good publicity provided by eco-friendly and green tourism attractions to encourage sustainability and conservation.