



UNITED NATIONS BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
CANCUN, MEXICO
REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT
2–3 DECEMBER 2016

Introduction

1. A high-level ministerial segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols, together known as the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016,¹ was held in Cancun, Mexico, on 2 and 3 December 2016. The high-level segment, with the theme of “Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-Being”, was attended by 382 participants, including 50 government ministers, 40 vice-ministers, 42 heads of delegations, and 250 representatives of national and international organizations, including [x] heads of international organizations.

2. The high-level segment focused on four sectors which have major implications for biodiversity: food and agriculture, tourism, fisheries and aquaculture, and forests. In addition to ministers of environment, the high-level segment included a significant number of ministers and other high-level representatives of these four sectors. The high-level segment also considered the linkages between action on biodiversity and climate change, as well as the importance of biodiversity to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The high-level segment was opened and chaired by His Excellency Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, who made an opening statement.

4. In his opening statement, Mr. Pacchiano Alamán welcomed delegations, representatives of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and subnational governments, private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, as well as representatives of ministries of environment, agriculture, tourism, fisheries and forestry, highlighting the unique plurality of sectors represented in this meeting. He also said that mainstreaming biodiversity into sectors and in support of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is at the core of the Cancun Declaration prepared by the Government of Mexico in close consultation with Parties.

5. Statements were then made by Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Director-General of the Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea (COP 12 Presidency), Mr. Miguel Ruíz Cabañas, Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment, Mr. Braulio de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary,

¹ Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, 4 to 17 December 2016;

Convention on Biological Diversity, and Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility.

6. Panellists thanked the Government of Mexico for its warm welcome at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference. They also expressed appreciation for the work of Mr. Braulio Dias during his five-year mandate, which was coming to an end in February 2017, and congratulated Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, a national of Romania, on her appointment as Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. In his opening statement, Mr. Chun Kyoo Park discussed the importance of raising awareness on the value of biodiversity and of mainstreaming biodiversity in public policy, inviting delegates to take advantage of the high-level segment to discuss and propose practical solutions for better integration of biodiversity across sectors. In his statement, Mr. Miguel Ruíz Cabañas said that, in recent years, our understanding of the universe had advanced by leaps and bounds, demonstrating that, fundamentally, human beings relied on the planet to sustain their existence and had to take action to preserve life on Earth. Ms. Helen Clark said that three of the earth's nine planetary boundaries had been exceeded and that the world's efforts and commitments would have to be doubled in order to stay within those boundaries and to safeguard the natural capital that sustained us, noting that the call of the Cancun Declaration to mainstream biodiversity into national plans and programmes was an important call to follow. She added that investments in biodiversity were essential for human well-being, effective as they yield high returns, efficient as they could catalyse progress such areas as food, disaster risk reduction, gender, among others, and equitable as biodiversity provided a safety net for all, including people living in poverty. In his opening statement, Mr. Erik Solheim spoke of success stories about biodiversity conservation and preservation in Rwanda, Costa Rica, Brazil and Mexico. He noted, however, that more needed to be done, inviting all sectors of governments, from all regions, as well as the private sector and citizens to come together to protect species and ecosystems. Mr. Braulio Dias applauded the initiative of Mexico to convene ministries and leaders from various sectors and noted that lessons learned and dialogue were key to developing practical actions and to working together coherently and effectively towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Ms. Naoko Ishii said that the next replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) would focus on the key drivers of environmental degradation and would make biodiversity mainstreaming a central pillar of the GEF strategy, noting that the Cancun Declaration could serve as an important guidepost and reminding the audience that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was a solid road map. She said that the coming Conference of the Parties would have the task to further its efforts to mainstream biodiversity and bring transformation in key economic systems, in particular food and agriculture.

8. Keynote statements were then made by leading United Nations and other international organizations, on the topics relevant to the "mainstreaming biodiversity" areas of focus. Statements were also made by Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization, Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Director-General, International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

9. In his keynote statement, Mr. Taleb Rifai said that tourism had the potential to be a catalyst for change in favour of preservation of ecosystems, biodiversity and natural heritage. He invited Governments and relevant stakeholders to support efforts of the tourism sector by developing policies and tools that supported sustainable consumption and production, enhanced monitoring and measurements of the impact of tourism and increased investments in sustainable practices, adding that the coming International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017, provided a unique opportunity to raise awareness among decision makers and the public of the contribution of tourism to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Maria Helena Semedo noted that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was committed to building partnerships and coalitions in order to take transformative steps to mainstream biodiversity, and called on stakeholders to build bridges, identify

synergies and combine skills for efficient mainstreaming. She specified that the Food and Agriculture Organization would support members in their commitments to take measurable steps for sustainable crops and livestock and implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Ms. Patricia Espinosa said that the links between climate change and biodiversity had to be more clearly reflected in the intergovernmental processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and that the conventions must join their efforts and look for complementary decision-making processes. Ms. Inger Andersen introduced examples of good practices in biodiversity conservation including in relation to soil health and protected areas and applauded efforts made by countries and organizations in linking biodiversity and climate change. She also emphasized the importance for the Rio Conventions to work on synergies and stressed the importance of inspiring and mobilizing stakeholders, such as youth and the business sector in conservation efforts.

10. Following the keynote addresses, the perspectives of a variety of partners and stakeholders were presented by Mr. José Sarukhán, National Coordinator, National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity of Mexico (CONABIO), Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque, International Network of Indigenous Women for Biodiversity, Ms. Elisa Romano Dezolt, Chair, Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and Ms. Melina Sakiyama and Mr. Christian Schwarzer, Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

11. Mr. José Sarukhán highlighted the work of the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity of Mexico (CONABIO), which served as an efficient instrument for generating knowledge and facilitating the participation of the scientific community, civil society and subnational governments. He noted the capacities to develop and manage knowledge and information in support of decision-making were key to mainstream biodiversity into productive sectors and service sectors. Mr. Gino Van Begin noted the actions of local authorities and subnational governments in favour of biodiversity and thanked Parties to the Convention for recognizing, over the last decade, the increasingly important and urgent role of cities and regions as contributors to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. He said that over 700 governors, mayors and other participants would take part in the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Local Governments, convened by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, together with the Government of Mexico and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Cancun on 10 and 11 December 2016. In her statement, Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque said that working together closely and respectfully, including by facilitating the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in programme and project development, was essential to reaching the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, implementing plans of action on biodiversity and applying the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. Ms. Elisa Romano Dezolt stressed that the business sector understood the key role the economic activities played in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as the urgency of addressing global biodiversity loss, as demonstrated by their significant support for the Cancun Business and Biodiversity Pledge, signed by over 100 companies only a month after its release, and by the presence of 200 representatives of the private sector at the 6th Business and Biodiversity Forum, which was being held on 2 and 3 December 2016 in Cancun. Ms. Melina Sakiyama and Mr. Christian Schwarzer discussed the importance of the involvement of youth in the processes and implementation of the Convention, and introduced the results of the project “Youth Voices” led by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, in collaboration with their international, national and local partners, which included a guidebook on youth participation in CBD processes. They also presented a brief report on the Civil Society and Youth Forum hosted by the Government of Mexico in Cancun from 28 to 30 November 2016.

12. The Chair then declared the close of the opening plenary session. A special award ceremony for the Midori Prize was then held, and the meeting broke for lunch.

13. A special high-level luncheon was held on “Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”, which highlighted the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the mainstreaming of

biodiversity, and how implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 could directly contribute to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

14. Statements were made by H.E. Mr. Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of UNDP, Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment, and Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Braulio Dias, then moderated a discussion with the ministers and other high-level representatives participating in the lunch, who shared their experiences in ensuring that biodiversity would be included in their national efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Two round-table discussions were held in the afternoon session, one on mainstreaming biodiversity in the food and agriculture sector, chaired by H.E. Mr. José Calzada, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico, and one on mainstreaming biodiversity in the tourism sector, chaired by H.E. Mr. Enrique de la Madrid, Minister of Tourism of Mexico. A panel of high-level representatives from Mexico, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco and Switzerland as well as Ms. María Helena Semedo from the Food and Agriculture Organization, provided opening presentations in the food and agriculture round table. A panel of high-level representatives from El Salvador, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, South Africa and China as well as Mr. Taleb Rifai from the World Tourism Organization, provided opening presentations in the tourism round table. Following the presentations, the Chairs opened up the discussion for interventions from Parties.

15. Two round-table discussions were held in the morning session, one on mainstreaming biodiversity in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, chaired by H.E. Mr. José Calzada, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development and Fisheries and Food of Mexico, and one on mainstreaming biodiversity in the forest sector, chaired by Mr. Jorge Rescala, General Director of the National Forestry Commission of Mexico. A panel of high-level representatives from Mexico, Estonia, Japan, Peru and the Republic of Korea, as well as Ms. Maria Helena Semedo from the Food and Agriculture Organization, provided opening presentations in the fisheries and aquaculture round table. A panel of high-level representatives from Mexico, Poland, Finland, Costa Rica, Sweden and India, as well as Ms. Eva Muller from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations provided opening presentations in the forest round table. Following such presentations, the chairs opened up the discussion for interventions from Parties.

16. In the closing plenary session, short summary reports of the round-table discussions were presented by the round-table chairs or their representatives. Full summaries of all the round-table discussions are contained in the annex to the present report.

17. The Chairman then presented to the plenary the final version of the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being, a major outcome of the high-level segment. The Cancun Declaration focuses on the need to increase actions to mainstream biodiversity in various sectors, in particular the four sectors that were the focus of the high-level segment, as well as in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the efforts to address climate change. He noted the efforts by the Government of Mexico to consult with other Governments throughout the year, and during the high-level segment, to ensure that all voices were heard and views addressed. The Declaration was adopted by acclamation.

18. The Chairman then invited representatives of regional groups to make statements. Egypt made a statement on behalf of the African Group, Peru made a statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, and Slovakia made a statement on behalf of the European Union. Samoa took the floor to make a statement on behalf of the Pacific island States. Finally, Guatemala took the floor on behalf of the like-minded mega-diverse countries. A special element of the closing plenary was the recognition of Parties that had announced commitments for enhanced action towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, known as Cancun Coalitions and Commitments for Enhanced Implementation.

Executive Secretary Braulio Dias introduced the item, explaining that he had invited all Parties to submit information regarding concrete actions and commitments that they were undertaking to achieve a particular Aichi Biodiversity Target or groups of targets. He added that his hope was to be able to highlight positive examples that demonstrated how a country or group of countries could in fact achieve one or more targets.

19. He stated that approximately 20 Parties had submitted commitments on behalf of themselves or a group of countries, and all such commitments will be posted on the CBD website. He then called on nine countries, who presented commitments on a variety of Aichi Targets, as follows: Guatemala, presented a commitment on Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on behalf of the Like Minded Mega-diverse Countries, France presented a commitment on Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 on behalf of France and a number of other countries, the Netherlands presented a commitment on behalf of itself and a number of European countries on pollinators, and related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 and 12; Brazil presented a commitment on Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and 12; Germany presented a commitment on Aichi Biodiversity Target 20; Japan presented a commitment related to its financial support for implementation of all Aichi Biodiversity Targets; New Zealand presented a commitment on Aichi Biodiversity Target 9; and South Africa presented a commitment on Aichi Biodiversity Target 13.

20. The Chairman then called on Executive Secretary to make his closing statement. The Executive Secretary gave profuse thanks and praise to the Government of Mexico for having had the vision to bring together, at the high-level segment, ministers of environment and of the four sectors that were the focus of discussions. He noted the excellent discussions held throughout the high-level segment, with ministers bringing different perspectives but always solutions. He further recognized that the heads of agencies in the United Nations responsible for the various issues had also come together as a result of the process, and had also worked hard to mainstream biodiversity in their own governing bodies and discussions. He noted that, in addition to the tangible outcomes — the Cancun Declaration, the reports from the four round-table discussions, and pledges and commitments to enhance implementation and mainstreaming, he was convinced that the constructive attitude across different sectors would pave the way for a successful process over the coming two weeks. He concluded by calling for Parties to use the outcomes of the high-level segment to find ways to overcome differences and to use the Conference over the coming two weeks to prepare the ground for the transformation that was needed to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and the long-term vision of living in harmony with nature.

21. On behalf of the President of Mexico, His Excellency Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, Minister Pacchiano Alamán thanked all participants for responding to the invitation of Mexico to join the high-level segment and for agreeing to take action for biodiversity in the high-impact sectors of agriculture, tourism, forestry and fisheries. Such participation in that important event set a precedent and provided a legacy for the planet and for future generations. The Government of Mexico hoped that representatives of those and other sectors would also take part in future meetings of the Conference of the Parties and continue to work on effective actions in favour of biodiversity and sustainable development within the framework of the United Nations. He welcomed the close collaboration of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization as essential allies. He urged Parties to achieve the commitments under the Cancun Declaration, noting that the Declaration would be an integral part of the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and would be submitted to the next United Nations Environment Assembly. He concluded by thanking the outgoing Executive Secretary, Mr. Braulio Dias, and by wishing every success to Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer on her appointment as the new Executive Secretary of the Convention. He invited participants to a side-event on the launch of Mexico's revised national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

22. The meeting rose at 6:30 p.m.

Annex

SUMMARY OF ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS

I. ROUND TABLE ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Chair's summary

A. Introduction

1. The round-table discussion was attended by approximately 250 participants. In his introductory remarks, the Chair of the Session, H.E. José Calzada, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Alimentation of Mexico highlighted the impacts agriculture has on biodiversity and the need to develop approaches that sustain the natural environment and the resources on which agriculture depends. He invited members of the round table to address the following questions:

(a) What are some specific positive examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in the food and agriculture sector?

(b) What additional actions are needed to enable and support biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector?

(c) What are the biggest challenges and barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity into the agriculture sector? What are the biggest opportunities we have now?

(d) Who are the main actors that have a key role to play in achieving biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector?

2. Following a number of opening presentations, the Chair called on Ministers, heads of delegation and other high-level representatives to make interventions. Interventions were made by Ministers or high-level representatives of 29 Governments.²

B. Summary of discussions

3. The session confirmed that agriculture was a strategic sector for most countries. Speakers agreed that biodiversity was not only essential for food production and rural employment but also provided a basis for supporting agriculture to increase resilience, productivity, food security and nutrition. Agricultural production and biodiversity conservation should therefore be seen as mutually supportive.

4. All speakers supported the idea that mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into agricultural policies and practices, as well as other sectors, was essential to achieve food security while avoiding further and irreversible harm to the environment. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, provided a holistic approach connecting the agricultural and environmental dimensions. In that context, speakers noted the need for enhanced policy coherence and the importance of NBSAPs and agricultural policies as tools for mainstreaming and integrating these dimensions within the broader context of sustainable development and for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

5. Most speakers agreed that meeting the growing global demand for food in a sustainable way was achievable but would require major transformational change. One key prerequisite would be public policies to promote sustainable production across the entire food system. In addition, such a transformation would depend on the effective engagement and support of a wide range of actors. Many

² Andorra, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Luxemburg, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe.

speakers agreed that such a transformation could only be achieved by fully engaging farming communities, including women and youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and consumers. Small-scale farmers and livestock keepers should be more widely recognized as custodians of biodiversity, and efforts should be enhanced to strengthen their capacities and their access to data and information, services and markets.

6. Speakers also noted the need for sustainable intensification of agricultural production and an integrated landscape approach. That would require investments in technology, research and innovation in agricultural production systems, the recognition of traditional knowledge and management practices, and strategies on sustainable soil and water management, enhanced nutrient and water use efficiency, and promoting the integration of wild biodiversity, such as pollinators and their habitats, while minimizing the use of pesticides and other pollutants and reduce the over-use of fertilizers. Speakers noted the importance of protecting priority habitats, such as centres of origin and centres of diversity through protected areas, private reserves, biological corridors and other effective area-based approaches. In that context, they also noted the importance of restoring degraded ecosystems and ecosystem services and of controlling invasive alien species leading to biodiversity loss and lost productivity.

7. Speakers also recognized the value of voluntary initiatives aimed at changing consumption patterns and reducing food loss and waste. Examples given included valorizing and commercializing local products and organic production, the creation of cooperatives, certification and stewardship schemes, and positive incentives, such as payments for ecosystem services. Also recognized was the need to take into account the effects of trade in or marketing of products whose prices did not reflect the true environmental cost of production that could increase pressures on natural ecosystems.

8. Speakers referred to the important role of management of genetic resources for food and agriculture and cited successful examples thereof. They noted that overreliance on a small number of crop species was associated with a continuous reduction in nutritional diversity and quality. Speakers recognized the role of combinations of ex situ and in situ conservation approaches for food security and climate-change-resilient agriculture, including seed and germplasm banks. Speakers also noted the role of non-cultivated species in food and medicine and provided examples of local approaches, such as community seed banks. Several speakers described the importance of unique and locally adapted production and management systems, such as forest gardens, agrosilvicultural systems, pastoral systems in dry areas and mountain landscapes, and noted that such systems were recognized in some schemes, such as the FAO Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. They also provided examples of such systems being important attractions of eco- or agritourism, providing a source of rural income.

9. Many speakers referred to the need to finance the transformation towards sustainable agriculture and in that context noted financial instruments, such as positive incentives and the phasing out, reforming or elimination of subsidies harmful to biodiversity as well as innovative financial mechanisms. The role of well-designed agri-environmental schemes was recognized as an effective tool that could be cheaper in the long term than the restoration of degraded production systems.

10. In conclusion, speakers supported the Cancun Declaration as a step towards better integration of biodiversity and agriculture and food systems, resulting in positive outcomes for both. The Cancun Declaration would generate awareness of biodiversity for food security and the opportunities arising from its sustainable use beyond the environment community. It could be the seed for a broad alliance of Governments, producers, the private sector, the food industry, transport, trade and consumers. FAO offered to promote such an alliance by working closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Biodiversity needed to be widely recognized as a tool for progress and its relationship with sustainable agriculture was crucial for the future of humanity. One speaker concluded by saying: “We, Ministers, are the agents of this change.”

II. ROUND TABLE ON THE TOURISM SECTOR

Chair's summary

A. Introduction

11. The round-table discussion was attended by approximately 70 representatives. The Chair of the round table, His Excellency Mr. Enrique de la Madrid, Minister of Tourism of Mexico, made welcome and opening remarks and invited Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), to make an opening statement, followed by high-level Party representatives of the tourism sector from El Salvador, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, South Africa and China. The Chair then called on Ministers, heads of delegation and other high-level representatives to make interventions. A total of 20 high-level Party representatives³ intervened during the round table.

12. The following questions were shared with Parties to help shape their remarks:

(a) What are some specific positive examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in the tourism sector?

(b) What additional actions are needed to enable and support biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector? (Budgetary, development of processes, legislation or policies actions?)

(c) What are the biggest challenges and barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity into the tourism sector? What are the biggest opportunities we have now?

(d) Who are the main actors that have a key role to play in achieving biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector?

B. Summary of discussions

13. During the session, representatives referred to the potential impacts and benefits of tourism on biodiversity. On the one hand, they recognized the importance of reducing adverse impacts of tourism development on ecosystems and local communities. At the same time, they acknowledged that tourism depended on natural resources and that tourism could be a unique tool for financing conservation and raising awareness, and educating travellers on the value of nature and culture.

14. Parties referred to their national ecotourism and sustainable tourism guidelines, and to projects linking tourism and environment. Representatives agreed that natural areas and protected areas, in particular, were a major asset for tourism development; yet, appropriate programmes and policies needed to be in place in order to protect and manage their use effectively.

15. Representatives noted that biodiversity was a critical asset for tourism development. That relationship was even more critical for small island developing States and least developed countries, as their economies and the livelihoods of their residents depended on nature. Several Parties showcased their sustainable tourism initiatives and policies, in which tourism was linked to biodiversity. Many planned to diversify their tourism products and services to include more nature-based and community-based tourism, and by promoting observation of charismatic species (birds of prey, large terrestrial and marine mammals, and migratory species).

16. Some Party representatives noted that managing the impact of tourism on biodiversity required a combination of regulating the number of visitors and educating tourists to foster a change in their behaviour. Participants shared some successful approaches for sustainable tourism, including:

³ Panama, Egypt, Jamaica, Namibia, Central African Republic, Honduras, Swaziland, Belize, Peru, Guatemala, Czechia, Maldives, Japan, Senegal, Seychelles, Morocco, India, Indonesia, Fiji, Tonga.

- (a) Awareness-raising campaigns and education of hosts, guests and tourism professionals, including tour guides;
- (b) Application of tools such as “limits of acceptable change” for visitor impact management;
- (c) Establishing community-managed conservancies;
- (d) Certification of sustainability through standards and eco-labels;
- (e) Payback mechanisms, such as tourism fees and corporate sustainability taxes;
- (f) Awards, support and recognition of sustainability champions and leaders;
- (g) Coherent master plans and policies for sustainable tourism, and able institutions charged with their implement.

17. Many speakers raised the issue of sharing the economic benefits of tourism with host communities and conservation stakeholders. As tourism benefited from natural attractions and resources, there was a commensurate responsibility for the sector to contribute to the costs of managing biodiversity. Equally, public management of natural attractions should aim at providing decent jobs and business opportunities for local communities through tourism.

18. In order to transform and improve current practices, many Parties mentioned the need to integrate tourism development with other sectors, optimize opportunities along the supply chain, and more equitably distribute economic benefits by diversifying the tourism product portfolio.

19. Speakers mentioned relevant tools for multilateral cooperation on tourism and biodiversity, such as the CBD guidelines on sustainable tourism, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism of the World Tourism Organization, and the SAMOA Pathway, the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014.

20. Most interventions mentioned the need to better monitor and measure impacts of tourism on biodiversity through scientifically consistent data to guide decision makers and policymakers. Speakers also highlighted the critical role of local authorities and communities in the sustainability of tourism and the need to provide these players with incentives and capacity-building. Many speakers noted that traditional communities were natural stewards for the environment and that their ancestral know-how on sustainable management of nature could be of additional value for tourism.

21. While many Parties noted that nature-based tourism and ecotourism were essential segments to promote, others pointed out that it was also critical to engage the entire tourism sector in the sustainability and protection of ecosystems.

C. Conclusion

22. In his closing statement, the Minister of Tourism of Mexico noted that the panel marked the first time that the Convention had taken on the task of reviewing approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity into tourism, with rich statements from a wide range of Parties. The Secretary-General of UNWTO concluded by pointing out that, as the world’s third largest economic activity, tourism was a powerful force and an educational tool for sustainability and biodiversity. The conservation of biodiversity in tourism contributed to human well-being, improving the quality of life of host communities. Sustainability depended on integrated approaches across relevant sectors, including the four chosen for the Biodiversity Conference. It was important to break the “silo” mentality still prevailing in most situations. Education, awareness-raising and training were critical components for sustainable tourism, travelling was about learning, enjoying, respecting and preserving. The Cancun Declaration represented a valuable global milestone in that discussion, which all Parties and partners were now invited to implement.

III. ROUND TABLE ON THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR

Chair's summary

A. Introduction

23. The round-table discussion on mainstreaming biodiversity into the fishery and aquaculture sector was attended by approximately 160 participants. Participants recalled the historical meaning of this gathering, as Cancun had hosted in 1992 the International Conference on Responsible Fishing, which had requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to prepare an international Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which remained the backbone for enabling sustainable fisheries management.

24. In his introductory remarks, the Chair of the round table, H.E. José Calzada, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico, highlighted that fisheries and aquaculture were essential for humans, not only in terms of livelihoods, local economies and the well-being of coastal communities, but also in terms of food security and providing essential sources of protein. It was therefore highlighted that striking the right balance between biodiversity conservation and fisheries management was the key to sustainable development, contributing to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

25. He invited members of the round table to address the following questions:

(a) What are some specific positive examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in the fishery and aquaculture sector?

(b) What additional actions are needed to enable and support biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector?

(c) What are the biggest challenges and barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity into the fishery and aquaculture sector? What are the biggest opportunities we have now?

(d) Who are the main actors that have a key role to play in achieving biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector?

26. Following the opening presentations,⁴ interventions in response to those questions were made by Ministers or high-level representatives of 21 Parties⁵ and 4 organizations.⁶

B. Summary of discussions

27. Participants noted that, although more attention had been paid to conflicts between biodiversity conservation and fisheries, the governance for fisheries management and biodiversity conservation had common roots and shared many similarities, with regard to their sustainability principles, management paradigm, and science-based approaches. Participants pointed out the importance of strengthening cross-sectoral integrated ocean governance, through adequate policy, legislative and institutional frameworks, as an effective basis for incorporating biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries management and engaging diverse stakeholders and inter-agency cooperation.

28. The overarching principles of sustainable fisheries had been agreed to and were stipulated in a number of international instruments, including the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

⁴ Mexico, Estonia, Japan, Peru and Republic of Korea.

⁵ South Africa, Canada, Tonga, European Union, Belize, Panama, Uganda, Kuwait, Namibia, Netherlands, Cook Islands, Chad, Venezuela, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Norway, Spain, Morocco, Malta, Seychelles, and Maldives.

⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IFAD, Ramsar Convention, and OECD.

and the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Together with other accompanying guidelines and action plans, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries as well as the 2012 FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries, those instruments supported the mainstreaming of biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture.

29. Many positive examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in the fishery and aquaculture sector were presented. For small-scale fishing, participants noted a wide range of best practices in the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries, including participatory co-management approaches through engaging multiple stakeholders; implementation of closed seasons/areas for fishing, gear regulation, species-specific harvesting control, use of selective gear to reduce bycatch, and the application of innovative environmentally friendly technologies. Many of the examples demonstrated had great potential for replication and scaling-up in different regions, while some were context-specific.

30. Large-scale fisheries were more often the focus of concern regarding their impacts on biodiversity. Participants shared experiences on how they had introduced and implemented, to a varying degree: (a) national legislation and regulatory measures; (b) management plans with incentives that encouraged responsible fisheries and the sustainable use of marine, coastal and aquatic ecosystems; (c) mechanisms for reducing excessive fishing efforts to sustainable levels; (d) measures to reduce bycatches and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; (e) certification scheme to encourage responsible fisheries; and (f) vessel monitoring systems for effective surveillance. The meeting also noted success stories of close cooperation with neighbouring countries for rebuilding collapsed fish stocks as well as joint enforcement measures to combat illegal fishing.

31. Participants also highlighted significant progress made in increasing the coverage of marine and coastal areas under protection, through the designation of marine protected areas or locally managed marine areas, while noting further advancement needed for strengthening management effectiveness and defining other area-based conservation measures. The meeting noted with appreciation the offer of Canada to host an expert workshop in that regard. Experiences on no-take zones, multiple-use zoning and reserves for fish spawning were also shared.

32. The meeting also highlighted the importance of increasing scientific knowledge through monitoring, research and mapping to effectively support the application of the precautionary and the ecosystem approaches, as demonstrated by the long-term investment of Norway in the Nansen Programme, which was being implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

33. Some speakers also highlighted their efforts to address the impacts of bycatch in response to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Many RFMOs and States had made bycatch mitigation devices mandatory on fishing gear.

34. Experiences were also shared on approaches for addressing the ecosystem effects of both large and small pelagic fisheries, which were often managed by applying quotas. These types of measures required adequate provision of scientific knowledge, including through multispecies and ecosystem modelling.

35. Certification scheme for sustainable fisheries (e.g. the Marine Stewardship Council) provided a useful mechanism for assessing the effectiveness of measures being undertaken for sustainable fisheries management.

36. Participants also discussed additional actions that were needed to enable and support biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector. To widely replicate or scale-up some of the success stories into different regions, capacity-building was essential to fisheries of different scales, in particular in small island developing States. For large-scale fisheries, better technologies could help make surveillance and enforcement in the sea more effective, while, for small-scale fisheries, effective empowerment of

community-based management was critical, and it needed to be accompanied by capacity-building, in particular on the ecosystem needs of responsible fisheries. It was also very critical to provide small-scale fishers with opportunities to access markets for their products in order to ensure their sustainable livelihoods.

37. More scientific information was always helpful to support evidence-based decision-making and engage stakeholders for their shared commitments. Greater needs for information existed in the coastal areas of less developed States as well as open-ocean and deep-sea habitats. Indigenous local knowledge played an important role in putting in place effective context-specific management measures. Monitoring the use of satellite or other innovative technologies and making available fisheries statistics or scientific information on marine areas of ecological or biological significance using online platforms could strengthen evidence-based decision-making.

38. In the policy realm, there were enough policy measures and global goals and targets which lacked effective implementation and enforcement. Significant countermeasures/penalties were needed to eliminate illegal fishing or destructive fishing practices. Also needed was legislative and institutional strengthening that would promote cross-sectoral approaches, such as marine spatial planning, for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management at the national and regional levels, which would also help address effectively the impacts of climate change, pollution and habitat degradation on fisheries and aquaculture.

39. Also needed were coherent means by which to monitor and assess progress towards sustainable fisheries in a way that incorporated biodiversity elements. The elements of Aichi Target 6 addressed target and bycatch species, depleted stocks, threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems, thereby incorporating a range of aspects related to biodiversity and fisheries. Understanding progress towards Target 6 required incorporating monitoring for all of the different elements of the target, including those related to ecosystem aspects.

40. At the global level, the meeting noted the recent efforts made by the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, UN Environment (UNEP) and FAO as well as other donors, to host and co-organize a Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies, the first global meeting of its nature. Essential role played by regional organizations was highlighted in supporting and facilitating actions by national Governments for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems. Enhanced cooperation and collaboration at the regional level needed to be supported by continual exchange of information and lessons learned, exploring of shared objectives, and addressing issues of common interest. The meeting noted with appreciation the commitment of the Republic of Korea to continue to organize, on a regular basis, Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) global dialogues with regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

41. Challenges and barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity in this sector were also discussed. Among the biggest challenges for large-scale fisheries in the open ocean were the urgent need for effective surveillance and enforcement, particularly in the high seas. Even where empowered RFMOs had management competence, surveillance and enforcement was a challenging task due to the enormity of the coverage.

42. For small-scale fisheries, the greatest challenge lay in the lack of capacity to develop management plans (including community-based ones), implement them, and monitor fishing practices. Lack of access to scientific and technical information and expertise to help develop strategies for dealing with problems encountered in small-scale fisheries was a challenge/barrier as well.

43. In a somewhat larger perspective, participants noted the looming challenges of food security and climate change. Market tools existed and were being used effectively to help keep large-scale fisheries behaving responsibly. Hunger and poverty were driving more and more people to coastal areas and

forcing coastal fishing communities to exploit their fishery resources. Where climate change was affecting terrestrial food sources, the need for more food from ocean and freshwater sources would escalate. Solutions to those larger problems could not be sought in the fishing sector alone.

44. Climate change was altering fisheries and aquaculture in certain areas, with implications for ecosystems, compounded further with other multiple stressors such as pollution, including marine debris and microplastics, habitat degradation and ocean acidification. It was important to understand those dynamics and integrate the impacts of multiple stressors into planning and management for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management.

45. Significant efforts were required to avoid discards, post-harvest losses and food waste. Less food lost or wasted made more food available for the growing population, which would exert less pressure on the environment.

46. Policies for managing and reducing fishing capacity and for addressing harmful subsidies needed to be designed to take into account the full range of biodiversity outcomes, not just improving the status of the target species and the performance of the fisheries. For example, this often required considering the potential impacts on biodiversity of displaced fishing capacity and of the possible alternative livelihoods of people affected by the policies.

47. Opportunities included linking with the policy commitments in the Sustainable Development Goals, greater interest by donors to invest on fisheries management and biodiversity conservation, and better use of market incentives that had proven quite effective.

48. Increasing efforts for cross-sectoral spatial planning approaches, including marine spatial planning, could provide a process and approach for more integrated planning of human activities, including fisheries, aquaculture and conservation of biodiversity, addressing biodiversity outcomes in coherent ways across sectors.

49. Finally, participants discussed how various actors could play a key role in achieving biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector. Fisheries management bodies at all levels were the main entities to incorporate biodiversity concerns in fisheries management. However, there was a need for: (a) strengthening of fisheries management agencies with regard to their capability for addressing fishing impacts on biodiversity and considering biodiversity outcomes in their work; (b) constructive interagency collaboration; and (c) full and meaningful participation of a wide range of relevant stakeholders and civil society groups in both biodiversity conservation and fisheries management process. In particular, the focus could be given to:

(a) Better empowerment of communities, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth groups, in the management of marine, coastal and aquatic resources, and facilitating their access to information sources to address the complex socioeconomic and ecological issues associated with fishery and aquaculture management;

(b) Better engagement of fishing industries, retailers and traders, and other private sector entities in order to promote green financing/investment and sustainable economic growth (“blue economy/growth”);

(c) Strengthening the regional level cooperation between regional fisheries bodies and regional seas organizations;

(d) International financing agencies/donors/development banks that can contribute to resources mobilization and capacity-building;

(e) Greater engagement of the scientific and technical expert groups – particularly those with biodiversity conservation backgrounds – to work together to find strategies that allow food production from aquatic sources to increase, while ensuring biodiversity is not adversely impacted;

(f) Greater communication efforts to consumers and media, to make the science-based and market-based measures more effective.

C. Conclusion

50. There was a general consensus that the collective progress made in biodiversity conservation and fisheries management needed to be further strengthened and expanded by strengthening political will, science-based management, adequate management programmes/strategies/plans, effective legislative frameworks, stakeholders engagement and awareness, capacity-building, and sustainable financing mechanism.

51. Participants concluded that mainstreaming was not a choice but *a must*. The key to successful mainstreaming lay in the collective commitment to work together. As such, Ministers and heads of delegations expressed their firm commitment to working together with various stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in harmony with biodiversity conservation.

IV. ROUND TABLE ON THE FOREST SECTOR

Chair's summary

A. Introduction

52. The round-table discussion was attended by approximately 200 participants. In his introductory remarks, the Chair of the session, Mr. Jorge Rescala, General Director of the National Forestry Commission of Mexico, highlighted the role that forests played in meeting different international and national objectives related to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Paris Agreement, among others. He also noted the opportunity that the round table offered to showcase experiences, best practices and areas of work where the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the forest sector should be strengthened.

53. He invited members of the round table to address the following questions:

(a) What are some specific positive examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in the forest sector?

(b) What additional actions are needed to enable and support biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector?

(c) What are the biggest challenges and barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity in the forest sector? What are the biggest opportunities we have now?

(d) Who are the main actors that have a key role to play in achieving biodiversity mainstreaming in this sector?

54. Following the seven⁷ opening presentations, the Chair called on Ministers, heads of delegations and other high-level representatives to make interventions. Interventions were made by Ministers and high-level representatives of 29 Governments⁸ and 4 international organizations⁹. Two additional country statements were submitted.¹⁰

⁷ Mexico, India, Finland, Sweden, Costa Rica, Poland, FAO.

⁸ South Africa, Malaysia, Ecuador, Romania, Cameroon, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Czechia, Rwanda, Zambia, Peru, Haiti, Colombia, Uganda, Canada, Argentina, Singapore, Turkey, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Indonesia, Morocco, Bhutan, Benin, Bolivia, and Samoa.

⁹ IUCN, ITTO, UNESCO, IUFRO.

¹⁰ Panama and Jamaica.

B. Summary of discussions

55. The importance of forests to biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and human well-being was a central point of the discussion. Approaches undertaken to mainstream biodiversity into the forest sector through sustainable forest management practices were recognized as important for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Participants noted a range of policies, instruments and measures implemented at different levels to conserve, sustainably use and restore forest ecosystems and their biodiversity, while improving livelihoods, through employment opportunities and income generation.

56. Despite existing tools and guidelines, many participants highlighted challenges faced and different approaches to address them. Many examples provided were context-specific, while others could be further explored for replication and broader application.

57. Several challenges were identified in implementing countries' NBSAPs in coordination with other sectoral strategies on forests, agriculture, fisheries and tourism. The implementation of forest conservation and sustainable use policies, particularly in forests under private and community ownership, was also noted. The role of payments for ecosystem services was mentioned by several participants and could offer a way to address the gap in economic incentives, thereby mobilizing different forest owners and stakeholders to implement forest and biodiversity policies in an integrated manner. Technological advances in forest monitoring were also highlighted by several speakers as an opportunity to better track forest cover, combat illegal logging and facilitate the enforcement of forest management regulation on private lands.

58. Several threats to forest biodiversity were described. Among them, forest loss due to land-use change and expansion of agricultural lands, unsustainable forest management, invasive alien species, infrastructure development, mining, fires and pollution. The implications of climate change on forest biodiversity, including those of more frequent and extreme weather events, were also highlighted. Forest fragmentation was also noted as a driver of increased human-wildlife conflicts. Participants emphasized their commitment to increasing networks of protected areas, describing opportunities to improve landscape connectivity.

59. Several participants noted that forests were at the crossroads of the three Rio Conventions and represented a natural focus for increased cooperation in their implementation. Due to its multifunctional role, sustainable forest management could play a significant role in meeting different international and national objectives related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Paris Agreement, among others. In particular, forests could contribute to eradicating poverty, achieving food security, promoting gender equality, and reaching other development goals, linked to human health and economic development. The opportunities that the forest sector offered to address climate change mitigation and adaptation goals while ensuring biodiversity conservation were also noted, as were the synergies between different multilateral conventions related to biodiversity.

60. Approaches presented, which included policy and institutional reforms, cross-sectoral initiatives, the access and application of research, data collection and management systems and inter-institutional cooperation, underscored the willingness and interest of the sectors to work closer together. Strengthening cross-sectoral and inter-institutional coordination for land-use planning as well as the development and implementation of national forest strategies and public policies were also emphasized as effective measures for integrated landscape management. Some participants noted that the Bonn Challenge, as a voluntary initiative on forest and landscape restoration, provided a platform for advancing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, particularly Target 15, and other related objectives of the Rio Conventions. REDD+ was also highlighted as an approach for coherent action across different multilateral environmental agreements. Others noted the importance of recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as the need to protect forests and ecosystem services.

61. Several participants also noted the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in integrating traditional forest-related knowledge in sustainable forest management. Initiatives and tools aimed at fostering the sustainable use of forestal goods and services through voluntary mechanisms, such as certification for sustainable forest management and access and benefit-sharing approaches, were highlighted.

62. Effective mainstreaming of biodiversity into the forest sector would require continued strengthening of technical capacities and enhanced partnerships among stakeholders. The need for new and additional resources for sustainable forest financing was also noted, as was the role of international cooperation. Several participants expressed support for the collaborative work between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other organizations and agencies. Some noted the role of organizations in raising awareness of mainstreaming approaches and drew attention to reports on forest genetic diversity.

63. In closing, a few international organizations reaffirmed their support to Parties in order to further mainstream biodiversity in the forest sector, and to work among partners, in line with the Cancun Declaration. While biodiversity had been an integral component of sustainable forest management from the outset, targeted efforts were still needed to ensure that the principles of sustainable forest management were well understood and applied, in respective national contexts.
