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Implications for Africa of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of this note is to provide a summary of the outcomes of the process that culminated in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its two protocols held in Montreal, Canada in December 2022. This note also proposes the way forward for Africa in implementing the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework.
2. It will be recalled that the decision to develop a global biodiversity framework, as the successor to the 2020 Aichi biodiversity targets, was adopted at the fourteenth Conference of the Parties held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in 2018¹. The decision was based on the fact that by the year 2020 most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets would not have been attained, hence the need to set a new framework to rally the global community towards “living in harmony with nature by 2050”.
3. The Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework consists of four overarching global goals to protect nature: (a) halting human-induced extinction of threatened species and reducing the rate of extinction of all species tenfold by 2050; (b) sustainable use and management of biodiversity to ensure that nature’s contributions to people are valued, maintained and enhanced; (c) fair sharing of the benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources; and (d) adequate means of implementing the global biodiversity framework be accessible to all Parties.
4. The Global Environment Facility was requested to establish, as soon as possible, a special trust fund to support the implementation of the global biodiversity framework. The fund would complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure the timely implementation of the framework with adequate, predictable, and timely flow of funds.
5. In addition to the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework, the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity approved a series of

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¹ Decision 14/34 adopted the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and decided to establish an open-ended intersessional working group to support its preparation.

related agreements on its implementation, including planning, monitoring, reporting and review; resource mobilization; helping nations to build their capacity to meet their obligations; digital sequence information on genetic resources; and implementation plan and capacity building plan of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

II. Africa's participation in the making of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework

6. The African Group of negotiators on biodiversity, as mandated by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, led the region in the negotiations with common positions on the development of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework and in engagement with other Parties.

7. Substantive and strategic engagement in the build up to and the actual negotiations during the negotiations was guided by policy direction provided by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment during the eighth special session in Nairobi in September 2018, the seventeenth session held in Durban, and the resumed eighteenth session in Dakar. Policy direction and strategic guidance on the region's biodiversity priorities was also provided by the African ministerial summit on biodiversity that was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 13 November 2018.

8. It is worthy to note that as a result of the guidance provided by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Africa actively participated and effectively influenced the outcomes of Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework.

9. The African group of negotiators on biodiversity received, with appreciation, support from the African informal biodiversity support group comprising of the African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, African Wildlife Foundation, African Development Bank, Worldwide Fund for Nature, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

III. Implications for Africa in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

10. Most priorities that were advanced by Africa were successfully included in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's 23 targets to be achieved by 2030. Africa made progress also on the contentious issue of digital sequence information through a compromise to continue further negotiation on this matter at the sixteenth Conference of Parties to be held in Turkey in 2024.

11. As regards means of implementation, for which Africa had stressed on the establishment of an independent biodiversity fund, compromise was reached to locate the fund under the Global Environment Facility. The Global Environment Facility is to accept funding from diverse sources and that the mechanisms or process to access the fund should be simple and short.

12. It is therefore imperative that member States take concerted efforts to implement the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework as it contains most of Africa's priorities on biodiversity conservation.

13. Some of the key implications for the African region include:

(a) Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are required to update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans or develop national targets aligned with the global biodiversity framework before the sixteenth Conference of the Parties. African countries should revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to align with the framework.

(b) It is worth noting that the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework and the achievement of its goals and targets will be facilitated and enhanced through support mechanisms and strategies under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols. As such, full implementation of the framework in Africa will require the provision of adequate, predictable, and easily accessible financial resources from all sources on a need's basis.

(c) There is need for strengthening cooperation and collaboration in building the necessary capacity and transfer of technologies to allow Parties, especially developing country Parties, to fully implement the framework.

(d) Africa needs to continue to actively engage in intersessional work of the Convention and its protocols on matters related to digital sequence information which still remains a priority issue for the continent as such information is critical to the Nagoya protocol on access and sharing of benefits accruing from utilisation of genetic resources and is important for the further development of the international and national regimes on access and benefit sharing.

(e) Engagement in other matters during the intersessional consultations including, resource mobilisation, development of indicators for monitoring implementation of the framework, is needed.

(f) Need to continue pressing for the mobilization by 2030 of at least \$200 billion per year in domestic and international biodiversity-related funding from all sources – public and private.

(g) Call for international financial flows from developed to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, of at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030.

IV. Proposed action

14. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, at its nineteenth ordinary session, is requested to:

(a) Urge member States to take appropriate measures to implement the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework including through revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

(b) Urge member States to actively engage in the intersessional work of the Conference of Parties and the subsidiary bodies as well as participate in the sixteenth Conference of the Parties.

(c) Invite the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission on Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and other partners, civil society, and the private sector to support African countries on the mobilisation of domestic and international resources as well as blended financing to implement the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework.

(d) Encourage African member States to work towards ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction at the earliest opportunity.

(e) Request the African group of negotiators on biodiversity to continue engaging in the intersessional work of the Conference of Parties and to develop common positions on the issues under discussion such as resource mobilisation, development of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework, and digital sequence information with the view of developing consensus among African countries and to coordinate the region's engagement with other Parties.

(f) Request the African informal biodiversity support group to continue providing technical and financial support to the African group of negotiators on biodiversity during the intersessional meetings of the Conference of the Parties as well as participation in the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

(g) Request the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the United Nations Environment Programme, and other development partners to support African countries in strengthening regional data and information capacity on biodiversity, including on undertaking digital sequencing of genetic resources, access to information for research and development, value addition, and innovations that support sustainable utilisation of biodiversity resources.