

Briefing Meeting on Outcomes of CBD SBSTTA 24, SBI 3 Virtual Meeting & Preparing for the 3rd Open ended Working Group on post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Report

1. Background

Earlier this year, the Bureaux of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed to convene, through virtual means, the Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice ([SBSTTA-24](#)), and the Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation ([SBI-3](#)) between May-June 2021, and the Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group ([OWG-3](#)) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in August 2021, in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15). The outcomes of the two Subsidiary Body meetings have been crucial in finalizing the development of the first draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

On 12th July the Co-chairs of the OWG released the first draft of the global biodiversity framework that provides the over-arching goals and targets in achieving the objectives of the CBD for the period 2021-2030. This draft is to be discussed during the virtual session of the 3rd OWG (OWG 3.1) that is held between 23 August 2021 and 03 September 2021.

In order to support the Parties to the CBD and other stakeholders in the preparation for the discussions during OWG 3.1 meeting, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) capacity building programme for MEAs in African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries ([ACP MEAs](#)) organized a series of regional preparatory and briefing sessions in Africa, Caribbean, the Pacific, South and West Asia regions from 11-19 August 2021 to help national focal points and other stakeholders in preparing for the Open-end Working Group (OWG 3) meeting. A special session to seek youth voices was also held with youth participating from Asia, Africa, GRULAC and Europe.

2. The Objectives of the Briefing Sessions

The regional briefing sessions were organized with the following objectives:

1. Provide an overview of the outcomes of SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3 meetings;
2. Enhance the understanding of elements of the first draft GBF;
3. Strengthen regional network of CBD and SBI focal points in preparation for 3rd OWG meeting on GBF; and
4. Promote better regional preparations for forthcoming CBD 15 meetings, with inputs from Parties and other stakeholders, as needed.

3. The Briefing Sessions

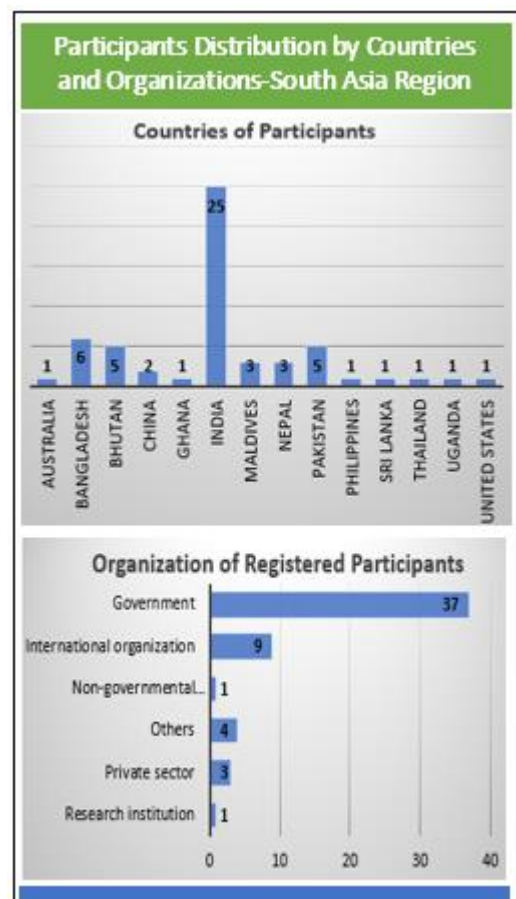
The briefing involved two interrelated sessions delivered by experts and senior representatives from the CBD Secretariat. In the first session, key outcomes and still debated issues of SBSTAA-24 and SBI-3 were highlighted, such as the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework, new and emerging issues of synthetic biology, marine and coastal biodiversity and related issues with marine litter, agriculture and biodiversity, as well as Invasive Species and Biodiversity and health, Gender and Youth actions and resource mobilization, as well as enhancing financial mechanisms for biodiversity. Additionally, the first draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was presented setting the enabling conditions for living in Harmony with Nature along with tangible goals, targets and headline indicators, that are still being discussed. In the following session, main areas of focus and interest specific to each region were discussed and the participants provided inputs to the discussions by emphasizing on national and regional priorities that are expected to be included in CBD negotiations.

3.1. South Asia Briefing Session

The briefing meeting for the South Asia region was held on 10 August 2021 in partnership with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme ([SACEP](#)), targeting South Asian member states, with a high participation of government representatives and CBD negotiators.

Fifty-five (55) participants, from various backgrounds, including mainly Government, International Organizations, Private Sector, Research Institution, NGOs and others participated in the briefing. Participants from Government were mainly closely linked to the biodiversity-conventions, with representatives of the Ministries of Environment, Forest, Natural resources and climate change, but also from other ministries such as Education and Science and other National Biodiversity Authorities. Other participants were from International Organizations, such as FAO, UNDP, UNESCAP, WWF and IUCN, or private sector representatives e.g. from BASF and CropLife International. The participants were from a wide range of 14 member states, from which 7 South Asian countries were represented, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Among other key discussion issues, participants emphasized the importance of NBSAPs as a major vehicle for reporting, assessment and review implementation and the anticipated challenges in aligning them with the new GBF in the future on the national level. Other challenges expressed by the participants included the involvement and engagement of different ministries and the high-level as well as the repurposing of funding after the COVID-19 pandemic, and participants requested for more technical and financial support in the future.



At the end of the session, 12 participants shared their feedback from the session in a circulated anonymous evaluation form. The surveyed participants were involved in several biodiversity-related Convention processes, namely Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Convention on Wetlands and The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Overall, the sessions and the information delivered were rated to be very useful by the respondents, with an average rating of 4.42 of 5 stars. The most useful parts of the meeting were specified as briefing on Global biodiversity framework/targets/headline indicators and regional discussion/discussion relating to aligning Post-2020 GBF to NBSAPS.

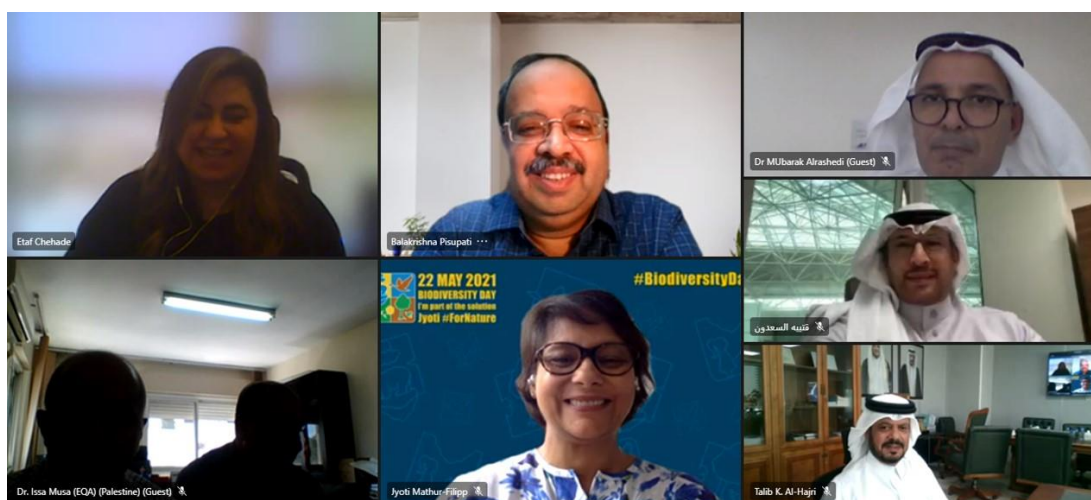


All the 12 respondents wanted to see similar events hosted by UNEP and partners in the future to:

- Promote continued dialogue;
- Provide technical support;
- Support in physical meeting of the COP;
- Share best practices, provide assistance to developing countries for wetland sites, and engaging top administrations in the CBD COP and;
- Provide negotiator training to new officers similar to those done by UNFCCC so they have better capacity to participate in COPs and other negotiations.

3.2. West Asia Briefing Session

The briefing meeting for the West Asia region was held on 16th August 2021 with the attendance of nearly 40 participants from 11 of the 12 countries in West Asia.



During the opening session, Ms. Etaf Chehade, the Healthy and Productive Ecosystems Sub Programme, Programme Management Officer in UNEP / West Asia Office, highlighted the importance of the meeting which came as part of a series of preparatory meetings for the Permanent Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. She stated that the Conference of the Parties defined the process for preparing the post-2020 global

biodiversity framework which calls on consultations with stakeholders and Member States, including but not limited to virtual discussion forums, and global, regional and thematic workshops. In the same decision, it urged the COP to “actively participate in and contribute to the process of developing a strong post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to promote strong ownership of the framework to be agreed upon and strong support for its immediate implementation” and called on other governments and stakeholders to do so she added. She further mentioned that the final decision on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be taken, along with decisions on related topics, including capacity-building and resource mobilization. Additionally, Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, UNEP’s ACP MEAs 3 Programme Manager highlighted the aim of organizing the session to provide another opportunity for countries and stakeholders in West Asia region to come together and discuss key issues that will form the core of forthcoming CBD OWG 3 meeting being held virtually. He advised that 2021 is considered as the “Super Year for Nature” and everyone has the responsibility to shape the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework with its Goals and targets and its implementation in order to stop the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems that is threatening basic human survival.

In the first session, Ms. Jyothi Mathur Filippe, Director for CBD Secretariat’s Implementation Support Division, Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati and Ms. Leina Al-Awadhi, CBD National Focal Point and Director of Biodiversity Conservation Department from the State of Kuwait outlined the outcomes of SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 and expectations for the first part of WG2020-3 which were related to the draft recommendations for COP were approved on: (1) Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (scientific and technical matters - review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines); (2) Fifth edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook; (3) Synthetic biology; (4) Agriculture and biodiversity; (5) Risk assessment of GMOs (genetically modified organisms); and lastly, (6) IPBES programme of work. On the expectations of WG2020-3, Ms. Jyothi advised that the First part of WG2020-3 will be held online from 23 August to 3 September 2021 and parties and stakeholders will discuss the First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

In the second session mainly for discussion of key issues, interventions were made by some countries in the West Asia region including Saudi Arabia which highlighted the importance of updating the red lists of endangered species and not relying only on the lists that are currently in place and to be placed according to scientific field programs as well as the need to recognize the ongoing global events in relation to forest fires and their impact on the biodiversity and social economic issues in the regional preparations to participate in the CBD meetings.

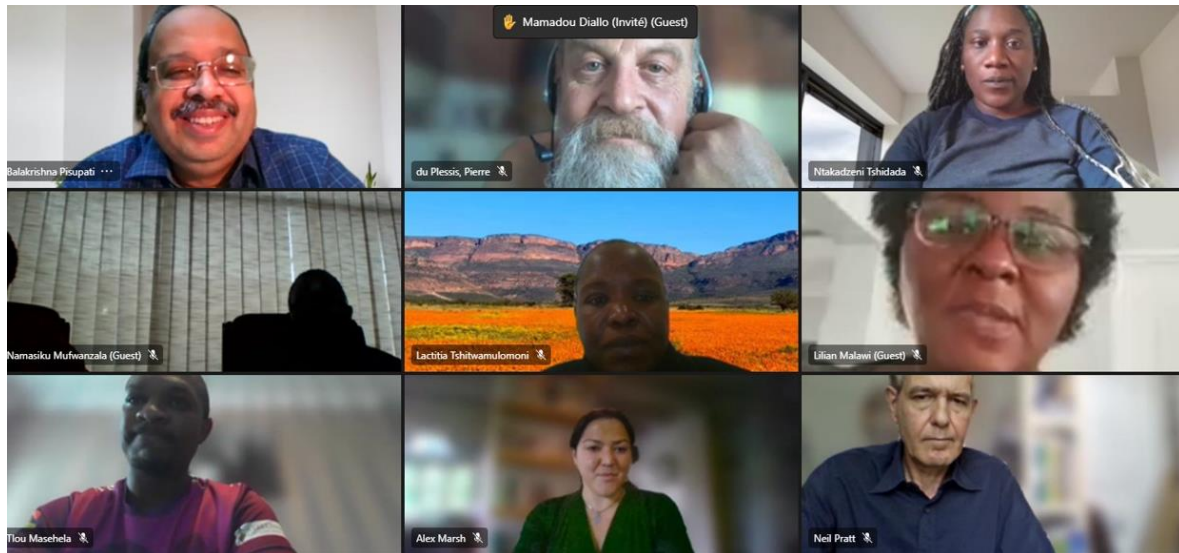
Jordanian presentative highlighted the case of climate change and its impact on biodiversity which came as a consequence of unsustainable use of natural resources and he suggested that the restoration programme needs to identify a financial mechanism and a source of funds and that funding bodies such as the GCF need to prioritize nature-based solutions and biodiversity. He also indicated that Jordan has developed a gap analysis report that can shared with the regional countries and highlighted the importance to conduct similar exercise at the regional level to identify the gaps and needs of the entire West Asia region. Participants were advised to consolidate the available funding mechanisms on a country’s priorities basis and to also develop a national financing plan for achieving the biodiversity targets.

Experts provided clarification to the State of Qatar on its inquiry that the 30% target in the draft Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) include both marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Additionally, participants were further informed that CBD secretariat will provide further support in terms of guidance for national reporting and the NBSAP which are required to develop and also to monitoring the framework. The Secretariat will also provide capacity

building, a resource mobilization strategy and a guidance for the GEF, also the CHM mechanism information.

3.3. Africa Briefing Session

The briefing meeting for the African region was held on 12th August 2021 with the attendance of more than 44 participants more than 30 African countries.



In his opening remarks, Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, the Programme Manager for UNEP’s ACP MEAs 3 Programme recognized the attendance of Dr. Hezekiah Benetis, the chair of SBSTTA-24, Mr. Mike Ipanga, the chair of the Africa Group of negotiators (in absentia), and Mr Francis, the Co. Chair of the Working group for the Global Biodiversity Framework development process. He further provided a background to the ACP MEAs 3 Programme including the objectives of the briefing sessions. He stated that the briefing session provides an opportunity for countries are sub regional and regional levels to come together to share their ideas and priorities and urged the participants to identify ways on how the CBD secretariat could support more preparatory processes.

In the first session of the briefing, CBD representative Mr. Neil Pratt stated that several of the draft recommendations include advice on key elements for the first draft of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework, in particular related to implementation support mechanisms, enabling conditions, responsibility and transparency, and outreach and awareness. He added that delegates at SBI-3 also reviewed progress in implementation of the convention’s protocols or number of items on the agenda and outcomes of the working group on Article 8 J and related. He also highlighted that the working group for the draft post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework as mandated by COP 14, will also consider the issue of digital sequence information on genetic resource for which a great deal of intersessional work has been conducted leading up to this. Given the challenge of the global pandemic, work on modalities and the intricacies of effectively enabling online participation and negotiation is cautiously in progress based on the experience and lessons learned from the challenges encountered in earlier meetings.

Mr. Simon Malete, on behalf of the Chair of the African Group of negotiators, appreciated the role UNEP plays in contributing towards enhancing capacities in Africa of which the African group Africa remains committed to a fair and transparent negotiation of the post 2020 Global biodiversity framework despite the impact of COVID-19 pandemic which continues to delay

the success and delivery of the long awaited post 2020 GBF. He highlighted the challenges African countries encountered in the recent concluded formal virtual session of SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 including poor or no Internet connectivity and time zone difference.

Dr. Balakrishna provided to the participants the key outcomes of the SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 meetings including marine and coastal biodiversity and critical elements like strategic review and analysis of the program of work on issues related to marine litter and others. In terms of resource mobilization and financial mechanisms, Dr. Balakrishna reiterated the African countries' call for the establishment of fund dedicated for biodiversity conservation and the related programs like capacity building technology transfer, cooperation, knowledge management and communications. In agriculture, the participants were informed that the focus has been on the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity in line with the 2020-2030 Plan of action for an international initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Meanwhile on invasive and alien species, the agenda item focus on drafting methods, tools, strategies and action plans to manage or eradicate the impacts and the invasive species themselves. The use of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans was highlighted as a key vehicle to implement the post 2020 GBF. This element focuses on how countries can start preparing by looking at the existing management, biodiversity strategies and action plans.

In the second session of the briefing, participants and experts discussed key issues of concern for the region.

South African representative, Alex Marsh highlighted the increased focus on mainstreaming in the new draft GBF which acknowledges how central mainstreaming is as a whole government and society's long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors. In line with Alex's view, experts in the briefing stated that mainstreaming is an important element of discussion in almost all COPs and in the current targets, the identified enabling conditions to achieve those targets will be on mainstreaming across some related ministries. Additionally, key and critical issues of synthetic biology, digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources were also discussed.

Namibia representative, Pierre du Plessis suggested that it is important to ensure that the drafting of the GBF has to be easy to communicate in order to inspire effective action from all sectors of society and more importantly will be able to maintain the momentum that direct and drive political agreement beyond the end of COP15 including achieving the vision of living in harmony with nature.

Another South African representative, Malta Qwathekana pointed that if we do everything from target 1 to target 21 then we will achieve all the goals and achieve the 2050 vision. However, he noted that implementing all the targets will require a lot of efforts and resources. Hence, it is very important for all parties in the region to provide some very specific inputs in writing to some of the issues of unclarity in the language used.

UNEP representative, Dr. Balakrishna urged the participants to continue discussing and identifying other likeminded countries and groups from other regions to create a level of correlation that can be fostered and build in terms of identifying some commonalities, differences and sorting them out as quickly as possible because the more time we lose between now and the time the formal session will adopt the GBF framework, it will be more difficult. According to Dr. Balakrishna, this could be achieved by identifying what people in the region are interested in ensuring that the draft GBF to be discussed succeeds and delivers on it mandates how to foster linkages with colleagues from countries and regions to establish a level of communication whether it's virtual or in person earlier or during the OWG-3 session.

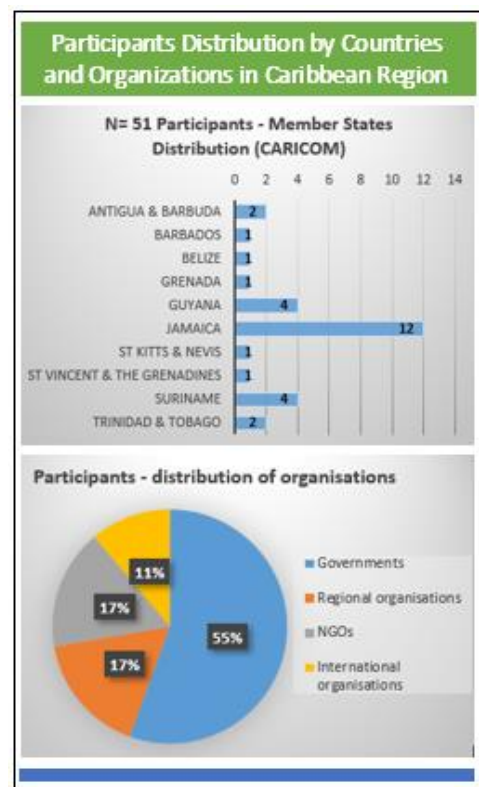
In terms of key priority issues for Africa, Namibia representative Pierre du Plessis highlighted that from the African group of negotiators' discussions, the top priority is to ensure that the means of implementation are secured before the framework is adopted. This is to avoid the same mistakes made in Nagoya where a framework was first adopted and the reflection on how it should be funded started later. Capacity development, technology transfer and knowledge management are also among the top priorities for the region. However, given the current economic circumstance, the unifying theme for Africa is that we will accept and insist on a framework that explains where the needed resources for implementation will come from, he added. Additionally, he pointed out that, benefits from DSI could make a very substantial contribution to resource mobilization, and that African countries should have an important recognition because of the fact that the region has a substantial development pressures and priorities. Among these priorities include the young African population expected to double by 2050 and for the region to set aside 30% of our land areas for conservation needs sustainable development approaches that can contribute to local economic priorities like job creation for young people not just conserving it for the luxury of rich people from developed countries.

Dr. Balakrishna recognized the region's need for capacity building, technology transfer and knowledge management because when it comes to reporting, most stakeholders participating in implementation or providing inputs to reports, these issues (i.e. capacity building, technology transfer and knowledge management) are going to be very critical for countries not only for reporting, but also for the report preparation processes given the kind of targets and indicators. He highlighted that countries will be free to use the indicators and have the flexibility to come up with targets that align with the global targets.

3.4. The Caribbean Region

The briefing meeting for the Caribbean region was held virtually on 19th August 2021 in partnership with CARICOM Secretariat. More than 48 participants from 10 countries and 10 organizations participated in the event and discussed key regional issues of biodiversity concern.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Amrikha Singh CARICOM Secretariat representative welcomed everyone to the briefing session. She thanked the Caribbean Biodiversity Negotiators as the region prepares for the 15th Conference of the Parties for Biodiversity and acknowledged that while there has been progress on these pertinent issues, several of the Caribbean countries are battling adverse weather effects such as Hurricane Grace and the recent devastation caused by the earthquake to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. She stated that reaching consensus at the regional level concerning the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) requires immediate and sustained efforts for transformative change, which encompass technological and environmental policies as well as changes to economic structures and profound shifts in society. The new framework should be inclusive of insights from activities that recognizes the Region's distinct position as Caribbean SIDS and



ensure that we advocate for the priorities, concerns and principles that lend themselves to national application, she highlighted.

Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, the UNEP ACP MEAs 3 programme Manager in his remarks shared in solidarity and prayers for a speedy recovery for colleagues from Haiti and provided a brief introduction to the purpose of the briefing which is to have information exchange of ideas, views and opinions from national focal points but also to take stock of the outcomes of the SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 inputs into the first draft of the GBF.

It was also noted during remarks by Mr. Neil Pratt, the CBD Secretariat representative, that the upcoming sessions will be focusing on the process and content of OEWG and draft GBF, therefore these fora will be the best place to address issues of contention in the CBD process. He informed that the Convention has been able to offer assistance to parties in online participation and have given very careful consideration under the guidance of the COP14 Bureau to the timing and the modalities of the sessions. The outcome document will be provided for consideration of the COP at the resumed session expected to take place in person early next year in January with back-to-back physical meetings for SBSTTA and SBI, he added.

During the first session, Dr. Balakrishna briefed the participants on the key outcomes of the SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 sessions that were held virtually in May and June 2021 which had provided significant inputs to the first draft of the GBF.

The key outcomes of SBSTTA-24 highlighted include issues related to the monitoring framework and indicators, consolidation of activities at the national, regional and global levels as well as supporting countries to work on systems that can provide support for the global body. Issues related synthetic biology, marine and coastal biodiversity, risk assessment and management of living modified organisms (LMOs) in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety were also highlighted and that an ad hoc technical expert group on risk assessment to be established. The Plan of Action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity as well as invasive alien species were also discussed, where the focus was on dealing with draft methods, tools and strategies, which are important for the Caribbean region given the impacts of invasive species on islands biodiversity.

On SBI 3 key outcomes, the focus was on elements of the framework on the gender action plan, the need for a communication strategy and elements of implementation of capacity building plans. Some discussions on resource mobilization and financial mechanism focused on the need for synergy, national financial plans and dedicated biodiversity fund, he informed. Participants were also informed about SBI-3's discussions on mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review implementation which focused on the use of NBSAPs as a key vehicle as well as discussions on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing meant to address the specialized ABS instrument and Article 10 of the protocol on Global Multilateral Benefit Sharing mechanisms.

On the Global Biodiversity Framework, Mr. Basile van Havre, Co-Chair of the OWG provided an outline of the major points of the draft GBF which include increased clarity and coherence on goals, inclusiveness of the GBF document, implementation Support Mechanisms (i.e. resource mobilization, financial mechanism, technology transfer), enabling condition (i.e. integrative governance, political will, participatory approach and synergies), responsibility and transparency and outreach and awareness and uptake.

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network Latin America and the Caribbean (GYBN-LAC) representative – Ms. Amelia Arreguín introduced the Regional Chapter and the intergenerational dialogue which took place in June 2021 in Latin America and the Caribbean

for biodiversity. LAC youth met with representatives of national governments and international Organisations in 2019 to discuss their proposals for the future of biodiversity. Representatives of the GYBN National Chapters of Haiti and Dominican Republic presented the 12 priorities including democratic environmental governance, resource mobilization, fair and equitable benefit sharing, intergenerational equity, human and nature rights, traditional knowledge, transformative education, research and scientific technical and technological cooperation, conservation and restoration, sustainable use, climate change and enabling conditions which synthesize the demands that the youth in LAC want to see effectively included in the Post-2020 GBF.

The second session of the briefing moderated by the UNEP representative probed participants in discussions covering key areas of focus and interest to the Caribbean and follow up plans at the regional level.

Antigua and Barbuda's representative Helena Jeffrey Brown, stated that, in order to achieve to the 2050 goal, a whole of society approach including youth is needed, which should also include the use of local communities, indigenous people to participate in the process. Local communities are driving the process and it is important to support them to make sure they are successful in their efforts. She noted that it is important for countries to ratify the ABS agreement in order to gain the benefits as a small island region with similar biodiversity.

Suriname's representative Marci Gompers highlighted on the importance of biosafety to the Caribbean region and encouraged the review of the regional biosafety Bill and its efforts and strengthen them at the national level as well as the regional. She suggested that the region need to push forward for biosafety incorporated into the GBF and ensuring that policy measures in the Caribbean need to match what is being done at the international level despite the region's lack of experts in biosafety.

UNEP representative highlighted the need for education and the recognition for indigenous people as emphasized by the Dominican Republic and Haiti youth representatives. Target 20 and 21 of the GBF looks at education and human rights but also rights-based approaches to deal with some of the issues such as Biosafety. He noted that, the challenge is to get the language politically correct and because of the current nature of the negotiations and discussions, trying to reflect the priorities of 196 parties within a few lines or sentences is always a challenge. National focal points and countries need to be actively participating in these discussions in order to get the global targets and language correct is also as important as starting to look at the implementation plans, he stated.

The Youth Representative Amelia Arreguin considered the importance of their participation to safeguard the future as the present generation lives with the consequences of the environment that is divided. The youth are ready and willing to be engaged and contribute to the solutions not just to be consulted but also as a generation of persons who are qualified and can equally make better contributions to the implementation process.

UNEP representative highlighted ACP MEAs 3 Programme's long-term engagement plan with youth that will be implemented in all the ACP regions starting with Africa in the form of a mentorship program to promote youth engagement and to empower them to have a voice on critical elements in the process. The mentorship program will cover resource mobilization, stakeholder engagement and capacity building.

Grenada's Representative Aria St Louis highlighted the importance of the integration of findings from the recent IPCC working group 1.5 special report on the drivers of biodiversity loss. At a national level CBD technical focal points grapple with mainstreaming efforts for biodiversity considerations and at the regional level harmonized policy and legislations can

help to address international development priorities, she stated. She suggested that legislations and policies at the regional level needs to be discussed and prioritized for action and some level of momentum for accountability. Key areas of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction is key to connecting the blue and green economy. Other areas highlighted included the important to support access and benefit sharing and sharing of information and knowledge as an entry point to understanding aspects of the implementation of an ABS framework.

Trinidad and Tobago's Representative Candace Amoroso expressed the needed to review the new GBF that is going to be more complicated to implement as it is becoming more complicated with every iteration. She informed that Trinidad and Tobago is now in a process of implementing provision of its NBSAP; therefore having to implement the new GBF will be a challenge with very limited resources.

In conclusion, CARICOM Secretariat and UNEP thanked all participants for their continued support in participating in the meeting and highlighted the importance of the pre-meetings in preparation for the negotiations. Follow up items included the submission of the meeting report and presentations from the session.

4. Outcomes of the Briefing Sessions

The key success of the sessions was the unique opportunity that the briefing session created and provided for countries to come together at regional and sub-regional level which did not happen for more than a couple of years now. The key discussions and outcomes of the briefing sessions included:

- The need for re-looking at the '**Theory of Change**' presented in the draft GBF;
- Improving the **focus and clarity** of several targets, especially on issue of approaches;
- Importance of better clarity on **means of implementation** that commensurate with the ambition of the GBF and its targets;
- The need to have **clear focus and outcomes** of issues related to financing, digital sequence information, synthetic biology, capacity building, technology transfer, knowledge management and the related;
- Enhanced focus on **regional and national priorities** in terms of targets;
- Clarity on the availability and usefulness as well as **comprehensiveness of the indicators** being suggested;
- The need for support to deal with **reporting** and clarity on issues such as national commitments; and
- Ensuring the GBF truly supports the '**transformational change**' needed to deal with the objectives of the Convention.
- Recognizing the **role of youth** and the importance of intergenerational participation in providing solutions to the environmental crisis given the wealth of knowledge and skills that young people have been accrued over the years through various activities, and
- The need for support at national level to get ready for **implementation**, including through support to review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), national financing plans, drafting the national commitment, capacity building and the related to realize the GBF.

Full recordings of the briefing sessions are available from the links below:

- [Regional Preparatory and Briefing Sessions for South Asia](#)
- [Regional Preparatory and Briefing Sessions for Africa](#)

- [Regional Preparatory and Briefing Sessions for West Asia](#)
- [Regional Preparatory and Briefing Sessions for Caribbean](#)

5. About the UNEP ACP MEAs Programme

The ACP MEAs programme is a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Union, the Organization of Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific States, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It aims to build the capacity of 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to fulfill their obligations to multilateral environmental agreements. In the last decade, the programme has helped states to fully engage in the implementation of environmental accords. It is now in its third phase.

Angola
 - Antigua and Barbuda -
 Belize - Cabo Verde - **Comoros**
 - Bahamas - Barbados - Benin - Botswana
 - **Burkina Faso** - Burundi - Cameroon - Central
 African Republic - Chad - Congo – Democratic Republic
 of the Congo - Cook Islands - Cote d'Ivoire - **Cuba** - Djibouti
 - Dominica - **Dominican Republic** - Eritrea - Ethiopia - Fiji
 - Gabon - Gambia - Ghana - Grenada - Guinea - Guinea-Bissau -
 Equatorial Guinea - **Guyana** - Haiti - Jamaica - Kenya - **Kiribati**
 - Lesotho - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Marshall Islands
 - Mauritania - Mauritius – Micronesia - Mozambique - Namibia -
 Nauru - **Niger** - Nigeria - Niue - Palau - **Papua New Guinea**
 - Rwanda - Saint Kitts and Nevis - Saint Lucia - Saint Vincent and
 the Grenadines - **Solomon Islands** - Samoa - Sao Tome
 and Principe - Senegal - Seychelles - **Sierra Leone** -
 Somalia - South Africa - Sudan - Suriname - Swaziland
 – United Republic of Tanzania – Timor-Leste -
 Togo - Tonga - **Trinidad and Tobago**
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