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12 January 2018

NOTIFICATION

2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development

Madam/Sir,

The importance of biodiversity for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was strongly recognized by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in decisions adopted at its twelfth and thirteenth meetings. Paragraph 14 of decision XIII/3, *inter alia*, urges Parties to mainstream biodiversity in the implementation of all relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and paragraph 103 of the same decision calls on the Executive Secretary to support Parties in their efforts to utilize an integrated approach towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

This year's high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from 9 July to 18 July 2018, will address SDG 15 on terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity. It will also address other SDGs of relevance to biodiversity: Goal 6 on water and sanitation, Goal 7 on sustainable energy, Goal 11 on sustainable cities and Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production. The 2018 forum, which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, thus provides a timely opportunity to emphasise the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

I therefore would urge your governments to highlight the specific role of biodiversity and ecosystems for sustainable development in your country during this high-level political forum, in voluntary national reviews that will be presented by 48 countries during the forum, in interventions including during the ministerial portion of the forum, to be held from 16 to 18 July 2018, and/or through active participation in other associated activities and special events. Countries that will present voluntary national reviews at the 2018 forum are listed in the enclosed letter from the President of Economic and Social Council. In addition, I would urge your governments to play an active role in the preparatory processes of the regional economic commissions to underscore how biodiversity supports sustainable development.

Work under the Convention will continue to bear a direct relevance to the 2030 Agenda, including with respect to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in key sectors that rely on biodiversity and/or which can adversely impact biodiversity. The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will specifically consider the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in energy and mining, infrastructure,

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manufacturing and processing, and health, all key sectors for achievement of the 2030 Agenda. I count on your active engagement in the processes under the Convention to ensure positive outcomes on these issues at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

Enclosure



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

14 September 2017

Excellency,

I am writing in relation to voluntary national reviews at the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which will be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

Based on the number of the formal requests received, I would like to inform you that the following countries will be conducting voluntary national reviews at the 2018 HLPF. They are: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Republic of the Congo, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vietnam.

I would like to thank the above-mentioned countries for their interest in conducting voluntary national reviews in 2018. The list for the 2018 HLPF is hereby closed. I wish to invite interested countries to consider volunteering in 2019 or subsequent years.

I look forward to working with all of you in preparing for a successful 2018 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of ECOSOC.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Marie Chatardová
President of ECOSOC

All Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations
New York