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3 July 2020

NOTIFICATION
2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Dear Madam/Sir,

Through this notification, I wish to update Parties on the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) scheduled to take place virtually from 7 to 17 July 2020. This year's theme - "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development" - presents an important opportunity to highlight, among other issues, developments on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, focusing on the role of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Forum also offers a timely opportunity to demonstrate how biodiversity is at the core of the "building back better" vision, with attention to needed structural changes in our current consumption and production patterns so as to reset humanity's relationship with nature.

This year's programme is based on the Political Declaration adopted at the SDG Summit in September 2019 ([A/RES/74/4](#)), the theme of the HLPF (GA decision [A/DEC/74/508](#)), and inspired by the Global Sustainable Development Report, also launched in September 2019.

The set of Goals to be reviewed in 2020 are SDGs most closely associated with the following six official thematic sessions: Protecting and advancing human wellbeing and ending poverty; Ending hunger and achieving food security; Responding to the economic shocks, relaunching growth, sharing economic benefits and addressing developing countries' financing challenges; Protecting the planet and building resilience; Sustaining efforts to ensure access to sustainable energy; and Bolstering local action to control the pandemic and accelerate implementation. These sessions will examine synergies and trade-offs across SDGs. The Secretariat is co-convening with UNDESA, UNEP and UNDRR, the session on "Protecting the planet and building resilience", scheduled for 8 July, from 2-3 pm. Further details are available in Annex 1.

A number of countries will also be presenting their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) this year. A full list is provided in Annex 2.

I invite your Government to use the opportunity of the official thematic sessions and, where appropriate their VNRs, to highlight the specific role of biodiversity and ecosystems in sustainable development in your country, especially any national strategy or action plan that has been created to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation. To assist Parties to the Convention in reflecting biodiversity in their VNRs, you may recall that the Secretariat has prepared biodiversity-specific guidance for VNRs, as a supplement to the UN Secretary General's updated Common Voluntary Reporting Guidelines for VNRs. The [Biodiversity Guidance for Voluntary National Reviews](#) was presented as an information note during COP 14.

To: CBD National Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol Focal Points, and ABS Focal Points



Further to paragraph 14 and paragraph 103 of decision XIII/3, the Secretariat is also organizing a suite of webinars and side events, in collaboration with partner organizations, including a pre-HLPF webinar with UNDESA and other UN agencies on 6 July, from 12-2 pm EST, on SDG targets with end date in 2020, and an official side event on 14 July, from 1-2 pm EST, on urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development, focusing on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, specifically on how biodiversity contributes to planetary and human health. You are welcome to register and join these events. The list of events with direct engagement of the Secretariat, which Parties may be interested to follow, is presented in Annex 1. For some events, registration is noted in the annex, in other cases we encourage you to follow the event via <https://www.un.org/webcast/schedule/latest.html>.

I continue to count on the active engagement of your country in these processes to ensure positive outcomes for the Convention through the HLPF.

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

Annex 1: List of Events during the 2020 HLPF with direct engagement of the Secretariat

Date / Time (EST)	Event Title	Sponsors	Type of event	Registration
6 July, 12-2pm	2020 targets: Renewing commitments and galvanizing action The session will include brief presentations by target, as well as interactive dialogues among the panellists on common themes. (Targets 2.5, 6.6, 12.4, 13.14, 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.8, 15.9)	UNDESA, FAO, CBD Secretariat, UNEP, with wider UN system	Technical pre-HLPF webinar. Special presentation by co-chairs to be confirmed.	RSVP here by 3 July
8 July, 2-3pm	Protecting the planet and building resilience	UNDESA (UNFF, ECOSOC Secretariat), UNEP, CBD Secretariat and UNDRR	Official HLPF session	https://www.un.org/webcast
14 July, 1-2pm	Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development – Update on the 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework with a focus on how biodiversity contributes to Planetary and Human Health	CBD Secretariat	Official side event	https://www.un.org/webcast
15 July, 8.30-10.00am	Accelerating Transformation to Build Back Better and Achieve the 2030 Agenda: Nature-Based Solutions for People and Planet	WWF Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the UN and the Delegation of the European Union, CBD Secretariat, UNEP, UNDP (TBC)	Official side event	Zoom event, RSVP by 13 July https://wwf.zoom.us/join/register/WN_GUE3Qv8HSpKFH3vMaYa27Q

16 July, 8-9am	Satoyama Initiative for Societies in Harmony with Nature: An inclusive approach for communities, landscapes and seascapes	IGES, UNDP, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Government of Costa Rica, CBD Secretariat, GEF SGP and UNU- IAS	Official side event	https://www.un.org/webcast
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Annex 2: 2020 HLPF Voluntary National Reviews

26 first-time presenters: Austria, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Zambia

23 second-time presenters: Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Honduras, India, Jordan, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Samoa, Slovenia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe