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Closing statement

**at the high-level segment of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity**

“Ecological Civilization — Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”
United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Kunming, China

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*Your Excellency, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China,
Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,*

As we close this important high-level segment, I want to thank our hosts here in China, as well as all the ministers and participants who joined and contributed with inspiring comments on confronting biodiversity loss and delivering an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Over the past two days, we have heard from 9 Heads of State and Government, 99 interventions from Ministers and other high-level representatives from 97 countries. Your discussions focused on key concerns, commitments and actions to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030.

All the evidence indicates that the loss of biodiversity is intensifying risks to our human well-being, our economies and our planet. The growing urgency to take action before our window of opportunity closes has never been clearer.

It is no longer a question of why you should act, it is now whether the actions you all take are commensurate to tackle this challenge. We need to invest in our natural capital and socio-ecological knowledge systems rather than subsidizing their destruction.

Putting it simply, our objective is to reduce, halt and reverse biodiversity loss, thus putting biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 and allowing for the recovery of natural ecosystems and achievement of our Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050.

Consequently, are we ready to respond to this challenge head on? Will world leaders come together at Part 2 of COP 15 and endorse an ambitious, action-oriented and accountable global plan for biodiversity? Will this plan secure the necessary levels of finance and political will to develop capacities, mainstream biodiversity across productive sectors, and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits? Will it enable action by all: indigenous peoples and local communities; civil society, business and governments and all others?

The Kunming Declaration points us in the right direction. Through it, you have committed to negotiating a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that is effective in bending the curve of biodiversity loss – one that is matched by the necessary resources and accompanied by an effective mechanism for monitoring and reviewing progress.

The Declaration also details some of the key elements needed for success: mainstreaming; redirection of subsidies; rule of law; full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Your round-table discussions addressed some of these aspects in detail and provided examples of actions already being taken or committed.

We have heard encouraging commitments from Heads of State and Government, as well as from Ministers.

I applaud the commitment of His Excellency President Xi Jinping to further build upon the considerable existing efforts to protect biodiversity and combat climate change. And I welcome the establishment of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and China's generous contribution to it.

The joint commitment of GEF and two implementing agencies, UNDP and UNEP, to support the development of national targets and their integration into national biodiversity strategies and action plans augurs well for a rapid implementation of the new framework once adopted. Japan's announcement of an additional contribution to the Japan Biodiversity Fund is also very much welcome in this context.

Furthermore, I am deeply encouraged by the numerous commitments for nature conservation launched in the lead-up to COP 15:

- \$5 billion pledge, over the next 10 years, from nine philanthropic organisations focusing on protected and conserved areas of land, inland water and sea, working with indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and governments.
- The doubling of external funding for biodiversity by the European Union, roughly 5.5 billion to 6 billion euros, for the most vulnerable countries.
- The Green Climate Fund investing close to 9 billion to restore ecosystems, while creating jobs across developing and emerging economies, and the commitment of a number of European countries to dedicate 30 per cent of their climate finance to also support biodiversity.
- Finally, the commitment of 75 financial institutions – worth a collective 12 trillion euros in assets – to protect and restore biodiversity through their finance activities and investments.

These commitments bring hope. We can get the job done in this decade. But much more needs to be done and more rapidly. We must get organized, get practical and get started with implementation at home and collaboration across our borders.

I urge you to guide your negotiators to deliver on the key imperatives discussed today, with ambitious targets, and clear road maps for early deployment of the post-2020 framework.

We must work together and ensure that every country does its part to halt the loss of biodiversity and put it on track to reach our 2030 targets.

We must also leverage the opportunity of the proximity of CBD COP 15 and UNFCCC COP 26 to address synergies between mitigating biodiversity loss and climate change, while considering their social impacts, to maximize benefits and meet broader global development goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Convention has a historic opportunity to set an example on a global agreement for action on biodiversity, next year, in Kunming at the second part of COP 15.

Everyone must be engaged. The process will call on the support of indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational and local authorities, civil society, youth, women and the business and financial sectors.

To prevail, we need to work together, to resolve unavoidable trade-offs and advance measures that offer multiple benefits to people and the planet.

I implore you to be bold and to demonstrate how your country is a powerful force for our global commons – a global forerunner in this important agenda for nature and people.

Our work continues.

I count on your active engagement to lead us on our journey to Kunming in 2022.

Thank you.
