

Thank you co-chair,

On behalf of the Central and Eastern European Region, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the process for the excellent work undertaken and the updated zero-draft of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. We would also like to thank the secretariat and SBSTTA/SBI chairs for organizing these virtual sessions, which is a good opportunity to keep the process ongoing. We consider enhanced communication and cooperation at this stage as important prerequisite for development of effective and successful framework.

Numerous reports highlight unprecedented loss of biodiversity and on Tuesday, we were presented the fifth Global Biodiversity Outlook, showing that we have collectively failed to achieve the 2020 targets. Despite the findings of GBO 5, we would like to recall the national efforts made to achieve national goals in line with the global Strategic Plan. However, it is clear, that our efforts were not sufficient to address current unprecedented challenges, and this is an important alert that stronger and urgent joint action is needed to address the extinction crisis.

Also, we would like to emphasize as importance efforts at the sub- regional level for implementation **of the CBD commitments** through the new model of cooperation within **the Regional Biodiversity Task Force (BD TF) of the South-East Europe (SEE) as a part of the CEE Region** for strategic planning of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

In terms of implementation, once again we would like to highlight that capacity-building and resource mobilization is key to ensure implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and achievement of the post-2020 goals. Therefore, we were delighted yesterday to hear about the work of the resource mobilization panel. We would like to stress the importance of increased funding for biodiversity from all sources. At the same time, efficient use of existing resources and effective measures to avoid future expenditures are crucial.

In addition, we acknowledge that the preparation **of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans as a part of the CEE within the Green Deal of the European Union** represents a unique opportunity for developing a robust investment plan for the region, centered on the creation of inclusive instruments for cooperation on biodiversity, clean energy and green economic recovery.

It is clear that the monitoring framework is a major step towards global progress in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity. However, we also acknowledge that some countries may not be able to monitor new goals quickly and efficiently. Therefore, in addition to the full list of indicators, it could be necessary to define also how such countries will report on their progress towards the new objectives.

Finally, considering that the post-2020 GBF is supposed to become overarching framework, we consider that involvement of other biodiversity-related and other MEAs should be considerably increased and we would be pleased to hear what are the plans in this regard.

We are looking forward to the in-depth discussions during the upcoming SBSTTA/SBI sessions.

Thank you co-chair,

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Yet bans largely address symptoms, not the underlying disease. To tackle the roots of the problem, governments need to improve waste management practices, tax raw polymer materials, increase accountability and responsibility for manufacturers and retailers, and introduce financial incentives that change the habits of consumers, enacting strong policies that push for a more circular model of design and production of plastics.

A sound policy framework allows for systemic transformation. Public investments provide the catalytic spark to set it in motion. At every level, Baltic region governments in the Baltic region should set up, connect and fund mechanisms to coordinate the transition of plastics to a circular economy.