

Statement by the Republic of Serbia

Resumed Sessions of SBSTTA 24, SBI 3 and OEWG-3

SBI-3 Agenda Item 8

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Serbia would like to thank Secretariat for preparing document CBD/SBI/3/10. We support the enhancement of the synergies among MEAs and the implementation of CBD commitments at the sub-regional level in the Western Balkan economies as a part of the CEE Region, through the **Biodiversity Task Force of South-East Europe (BDTF SEE)**. Our sub-regional task force, in cooperation with IUCN, played a vital role in the development of the **biodiversity action plan to the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans**, an integral component of the EU Green Deal agreed in October 2021 in Brdo, Slovenia.

Therefore, Serbia calls for sub-regional structures such as the Biodiversity Task Force of South-East Europe to contribute to the implementation of MEAs through enhancing synergies among biodiversity related conventions in three broad areas: supporting coordination and avoiding duplication; collecting information and indicators for monitoring and reporting on thematic and cross-cutting areas; and facilitating transboundary cooperation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Serbia also calls parties to increase the financial support to the biodiversity action plan of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, including MEAs commitments, as a mechanism to enhance capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation in the Central and Eastern European region as a whole.