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Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
E-mail: secretariat@cbd.int

February 23, 2021

Dear Ms. Maruma Mrema,

On behalf of Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Georgia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, please find enclosed a joint submission on Goal B of the Updated Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, for the Co-Chairs' consideration.

Best regards,

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Joint Submission from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Georgia, Japan, Mexico and New Zealand

Updated Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Draft Goal B

“Nature’s contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people”.

This submission, jointly submitted by Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Georgia, Japan, Mexico and New Zealand, aims at providing feedback to the Post-2020 Co-Chairs on the draft Goal B of the Updated Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Firstly, we would like to thank the Co-Chairs for the Updated Zero Draft. We acknowledge the difficult work that lies ahead of them and want to express our highest gratitude for their hard work in trying to bring together everyone’s views.

This joint submission outlines the elements that we feel are important to be reflected in Goal B in order to help the forthcoming implementation of the Framework and could also improve the communicability of goal B.

From our perspective, the 2050 Goals should represent how the global community sees the 2050 vision in more practical terms. In other words, they should help define what “living in harmony with nature” means in a more tangible manner.

In this context, we broadly support the idea of having 2050 Goals that at least reflect the three objectives of the Convention. Naturally, focusing Goal B around the second objective of the Convention appears to be an appropriate approach to us, focusing on “sustainable use of biodiversity”. The three objectives of the Convention have been agreed upon by all CBD Parties and will remain relevant in 2050. Framing the goals around the three objectives of the Convention could also help ensure that we are addressing the objectives of the Convention in a balanced way.

With this in mind, we are of the view that it may be preferable to remove the reference to “conservation” from the draft Goal B, in order to keep the emphasis squarely on the second objective of the Convention. We think that this would help to ensure that the section on Goals is clear and simple.

We recognize the importance of nature’s contributions to people as a key element for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as well as its strong connection with the

second objective of the Convention. We are of the view that “sustainable use of biodiversity” is a building block for the achievement of the 2050 Vision, and living in harmony with nature implies that we are using biodiversity sustainably, through an ecosystem based approach, to ensure the health of all ecosystems. As a result, biodiversity abundance and diversity contributes to meeting people’s needs. Thus, we agree and see merit in highlighting nature’s role in providing benefits to people. It is a powerful tool for policy makers and for civil society to understand the importance of biodiversity.

That being said, our preference would be for the goal to be framed around the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, which provide these many benefits to all people. We see the concept of “sustainability” as the centrepiece of this Goal. In this regard, we suggest that the following alternate language would represent viable options to frame Goal B:

- *“Biodiversity is used sustainably to provide benefits to present and future generations and to nature.”*
- *“Biodiversity is used sustainably, through an ecosystem-based approach, for the benefit of all life on Earth.”*

We hope that this submission will be help to the Co-Chairs as well as other Parties to understand our perspectives on this issue. We are eager to continue to work with CBD Parties on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to pave the way for a successful Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.