

ZERO DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Submission to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the world's largest business organisation with an institutional membership of over 45 million companies in more than 100 countries. Our members include many of the world's largest companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce – working across all sectors around the globe.

In 2016, ICC was granted Observer Status at the United Nations General Assembly – the first time a private sector organisation has been formally admitted into the United Nations system. We are a purpose-driven organization, committed to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and we support the adoption of an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in Kunming, China in October 2020.

We appreciate the opportunity for business to engage in an open, inclusive and transparent manner in the process leading up to COP15 and, specifically, the opportunity to contribute input to the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Zero Draft). We set out below seven specific inputs on the Zero Draft for consideration by the Parties ahead of the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on 24-29 February 2020.

We also include for your consideration the [ICC Policy Statement](#) developed last year, which sets out the broad expectations of business with respect to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, we reference the recommendations of [Business for Nature](#) – a global coalition of leading international organisations, including ICC, calling for action to reverse nature loss and restore the planet's vital natural systems.

Key inputs on the Zero Draft

1. Role of the Private Sector

The private sector can and must be a part of the solution to mainstream biodiversity and integrate actions in all economic sectors that support the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological diversity.

ICC welcomes the inclusion of business in the 'all of society' approach to achieve the objectives of the CBD set out in the Section B (*Purpose*) of the Zero Draft. ICC further encourages Parties to include references to business alongside other stakeholders throughout the text to reflect the positive impact that business can and must have to achieve the CBD 2050 vision of "Living in harmony with nature."

An inclusive approach will be critical to effective implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

2. Targets

ICC welcomes efforts in the text of the Zero Draft to establish measurable targets. In this respect, we encourage Parties to continue to develop the proposed targets to ensure that each target is ambitious, science-based as well as specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound (SMART). To this end, careful consideration must be given to the clarity of terms and concepts used. In addition, consideration must also be given to the interface with other international agreements where there are overlaps in goals/targets/outcomes.

To assist with the successful implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in addition to ensuring that each target is SMART, we would encourage streamlining the number of targets, ensuring that each target is clearly communicable and allows for progress to be tracked, including through milestones. An overarching SMART apex target would also assist in clearly communicating the overall goal of the Parties and ensuring the successful implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

3. Innovation and technology

The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should also recognise the integral role of innovation in our ability to achieve the 2050 vision of “Living in harmony with nature.” To promote innovation – from new business and financial models to novel technologies – a framework should be in place to encourage and nurture research, development and deployment of innovative approaches and technologies.

To this end, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should support and facilitate public and private research and development activities, information exchange, and scientific collaborations that are necessary to foster innovation that contributes to achieving the objectives of the CBD and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in keeping with the trend towards open science and open data. Moreover, an inclusive and holistic approach to technologies should be taken.

4. Access and Benefit Sharing

The proposed longer term 2050 and more immediate 2030 goals aim to increase “benefits, shared fairly and equitably, from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge”.

To ensure that benefits from research and development involving utilization of genetic resources are created, it is essential that access and benefit sharing (ABS) approaches and frameworks are supportive of, and do not hinder, research and development activities. ABS regimes should be proportionate, and supportive of research and innovation to ensure the achievement of these goals.

In the Zero Draft, ABS goals and indicators should take a more holistic approach. The “suggested elements of the goals/targets for monitoring indicators” currently only attempt to measure the amount of benefits shared and not the creation of benefits as a whole and for all groups of society. Indicators should be added to measure the creation of both monetary and non-monetary benefits for all stakeholders concerned. This will allow a realistic evaluation of how current ABS approaches contribute to the creation of benefits and will help Parties to identify the successful approaches in regard to the CBD objectives of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

While we welcome the consideration of both monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing in the indicators, they fall short of capturing the full picture and could better reflect the breadth and complexity of socio-economic and scientific benefits created.

5. Policy Coherence

Successful implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will require Parties to ensure that they take a holistic approach to the CBD and its Protocols, as well as ensure policy coherence across all related international conventions and agreements, such that these all share and work towards the same ultimate goals.

6. Definitions

We note that a number of terms used throughout the Zero Draft, including in the goals and action targets, would benefit from a clear definition to ensure common understanding and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Care should be taken to ensure alignment of terms and concepts with agreed scientific terms and concepts where relevant to avoid confusion.

7. Action Agenda

We encourage the inclusion of an action agenda to help mainstream biodiversity across all stakeholder groups and work towards inclusive multilateralism.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our views and look forward to continuing to collaborate with the CBD Secretariat, the Parties and all stakeholders in the lead-up to COP15.



About The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the world's largest business organization representing more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries. ICC's core mission is to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, we promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Our members include many of the world's leading companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce.

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