



FAO Conference 40th Session

Rome, 3 - 8 July 2017

Side event

Sustainable Agriculture for Biodiversity and Biodiversity for Sustainable Agriculture Mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture

Tuesday, 4th July 2017 – 08:00 – 09:30 hours (Sheikh Zayed Centre)

The UN Biodiversity Conference, comprising the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), was held from 4 to 17 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico. It resulted in significant commitments for action on biodiversity. Agreement was reached in particular on actions to mainstream biodiversity across agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and tourism with the aim to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the key outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference was the strong political support to biodiversity mainstreaming. Through the *Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being, adopted at the UN Biodiversity Conference*, ministers and heads of delegations committed themselves to work at all levels within their governments and across all sectors, to mainstream biodiversity into policies, plans and programmes.

The UN Biodiversity Conference also requested that further guidance be prepared, in collaboration with FAO, on the concept of “sustainability” in food and agriculture with regard to biodiversity. It invited FAO and its Governing and Statutory Bodies to consider and support the development and implementation of measures, guidance and tools to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity. It also welcomed FAO’s platform to mainstream biodiversity across all agricultural sectors.

While the UN Biodiversity Conference was taking place in Cancun, FAO, at the request of its members established the new Department on Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water to coordinate FAO’s work on biodiversity for food and agriculture and address key challenges faced by Members in this regard. Based on its strong policy and coordination role through the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and normative leadership through the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO plans as a first step, to facilitate a dialogue between the environment and agricultural sectors with a view to identifying areas of joint action in developing integrated approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

At a special event organized by FAO to celebrate the International Day on Biodiversity, on 22 May 2017, it was highlighted that biodiversity must become a priority cross-cutting issue in global efforts to end hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. The potential role of FAO’s Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform in this endeavor was also highlighted.

The current 40th Session of the FAO Conference will consider, under agenda item 17, the outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference and proposals for initial steps to be taken by



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FAO acting as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform.¹ In April 2017, under Mexico's initiative, the Group of Friends of Biodiversity and Ecosystems at FAO was launched².

This event will offer an opportunity for Members to discuss how best they may collaborate with FAO in the task of mainstreaming biodiversity across agriculture, fisheries and forestry, in particular:

- Main goals and activities of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform including the development of a FAO Strategy on biodiversity to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Promotion of dialogue among stakeholders on concrete and coordinated measures to mainstream biodiversity in all agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels.
- Interface and cooperation between FAO and CBD as well as other relevant international fora.
- Follow up to the Cancun Declaration and steps towards CBD COP 14 in Egypt.

Panellists will include:

- H.E. Henri Eyebe Ayissi, Minister of Agriculture and Rural development, Cameroon
- H.E. José Manuel Hernández Calderón, Minister of Agriculture, Peru
- H.E. Ambassador Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Mexico
- H.E. Ambassador Jan Tombiński, Permanent Representative to FAO, European Union
- H.E. Ambassador François Pythoud, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture
- Mr Gerry Jayawardena, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Sri Lanka
- Ms Cristiana Pasça Palmer, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
- Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO

Facilitator: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Díaz, Director-General, International Cooperation and Implementation, CONABIO, Mexico

¹ See document [C 2017/33](#)

² The Group, currently comprising Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland, is open to other interested Members.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Tuesday 4 July 2017
8:00 – 9:30
Sheikh Zayed Centre

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Mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture

Panellists

Henri Eyebe Ayissi

Minister of Agriculture and Rural development,
Cameroon

François Pythoud

Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO,
Chair of the Committee on Agriculture

José Manuel Hernández Calderón

Minister of Agriculture, Peru

Gerry Jayawardena

Senior Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Sri
Lanka

Miguel Ruiz Cabañas

Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Human
Rights, Mexico

Cristiana Pasca Palmer

Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological
Diversity

Jan Tombiński

Permanent Representative to FAO, European
Union

Maria Helena Semedo

Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural
Resources, FAO

MÉXICO
PRESIDENCIA DE LA REPÚBLICA



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Interpretation will be available in English, Spanish, French
Coffee and croissants will be served prior to the event
Webcast: fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4379/icode