



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**25** YEARS  
Convention on  
Biological Diversity  
SAFEGUARDING LIFE ON EARTH



**BIODIVERSITY  
MAINSTREAMING  
AGRICULTURAL  
SECTORS**

## Report of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors

Rome, 29-31 May 2018 - FAO headquarters





Report of  
the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on  
**Biodiversity Mainstreaming  
across Agricultural Sectors**

Rome, 29-31 May 2018 - FAO headquarters

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, 2019



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition."

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

**Third-party materials.** Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

**Sales, rights and licensing.** FAO information products are available on the FAO website ([www.fao.org/publications](http://www.fao.org/publications)) and can be purchased through [publications-sales@fao.org](mailto:publications-sales@fao.org). Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: [www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request](http://www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request). Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: [copyright@fao.org](mailto:copyright@fao.org).

# Contents

Introduction .....	1
Opening session .....	2
<b>Session I: Strengthening synergies between agriculture sectors and biodiversity</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Session II: Biodiversity mainstreaming in practice</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Sessions III and IV: Working Groups</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Working Group I: Biodiversity mainstreaming through global governance .....	8
Working Group II: Biodiversity mainstreaming through national policies and legislation .....	9
Working Group III: Biodiversity mainstreaming through incentives and investment .....	10
Working Group IV: Biodiversity mainstreaming along value chains: voluntary certification schemes .....	11
<b>Session V: Future activities of the biodiversity mainstreaming platform</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>High-level segment</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Closing remarks</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	
Recommendations from Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition online multi-stakeholder consultation on “Mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture, fisheries and forestry for improved food security and nutrition” .....	19
<b>Appendix 2</b>	
Agenda of the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors .....	20
<b>Appendix 3</b>	
Opening Statements of the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors – Plenary Session (29 May 2018) .....	23
<b>Appendix 4</b>	
Report of Working Groups .....	31
<b>Appendix 5</b>	
High Level Segment: Joint Report of the Co-chairs of the Working Groups .....	37
<b>Appendix 6</b>	
Statement of High-Level Segment on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors and Closing Remarks (31 May) .....	40





# Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform in 2016 to facilitate dialogue and the exchange of information between governments and other actors on issues related to mainstreaming biodiversity across the agriculture sectors.

As one of the first major activities of the Platform, FAO held a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors (Dialogue) in Rome, between 29 and 31 May 2018.<sup>1</sup>

The Dialogue was co-organized with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and brought together approximately 250 experts and stakeholders representing a wide range of actors, including governments, the research sector, civil society organizations, the private sector and intergovernmental organizations. In the run up to the event, a multi-stakeholder, e-consultation via FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Forum was held in order to gather comments and suggestions for the Dialogue.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Dialogue webpage: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/multi-%2stakeholder-dialogue-on-biodiversity/en/>

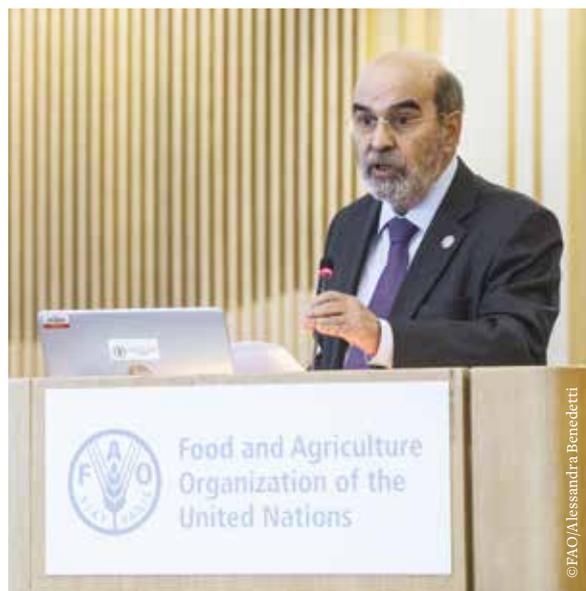
<sup>2</sup> The summary of the e-consultation is available in Appendix 1.

## Opening session

The Dialogue<sup>3</sup> was opened by Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO. Biodiversity was described as essential for safeguarding agriculture and improving the livelihoods and resilience of rural communities. Climate change, growing populations and rapid urbanization have, in fact, led to changing diets and added urgency to the need to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. The sustainable use of biodiversity was emphasized as the essence of FAO's work and participants were reminded that FAO provides an intergovernmental platform in which relevant policies concerning biodiversity for food and agriculture are discussed, agreements are negotiated and adopted. FAO intends to strengthen its work in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Further opening remarks were delivered by Mr Inia Batikoko Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Fiji. The Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform was welcomed. Enhancing the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the development of targets for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework were described as critical. The importance was underlined of mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors for Fiji and other Small Island Developing States, especially given the contribution of biodiversity to the productiveness of the country's agriculture and fisheries sectors, its support to food security and healthy diets. Lastly, the importance of building synergies between the government, local communities and other stakeholders was stressed, as was including considerations of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity directly into formal decision-making processes.

Mr Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment, stated that agriculture would not survive without biodiversity, and without agriculture the world's biodiversity would not be maintained. Farming in harmony with nature was depicted as



the only way to eradicate poverty and end hunger. Various examples from Kenya were presented, in which local farmers received support from UN Environment for the protection of biodiversity, as well as to increase African green leaves and vegetables production as a cornerstone of a healthy diet. UN Environment's willingness to work with all stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors was also reaffirmed.

Ms Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner, African Union Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture, explained that the sustainable use of biodiversity is a global mission. The sustainable utilization and conservation of Africa's biodiversity is deemed urgent, especially in view of the unprecedented rates of its decline and loss. Specific concerns for Africa were highlighted, such as land degradation, climate change, conflict and migration. The central role of smallholders as custodians of a rich range of biodiversity was also reiterated. The integration of biodiversity into national planning processes was envisaged, as well as linking the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods to biodiversity. The role of the African Union (AU) was emphasized, as was a collaboration with the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform to implement the outcomes of the Dialogue.

<sup>3</sup> The Agenda is available in Appendix 2 and full statements of the Opening session are available in Appendix 3.

Ms Cristiana Pasca Palmer, Executive Secretary, CBD, underscored that balancing food security and biodiversity loss represent two key challenges of the 2030 Agenda. Coherent policies backed by incentives, stakeholder engagement and monitoring are therefore required, as well as suitable enforcement mechanisms. Biodiversity is believed to render agriculture more resilient and contribute towards both adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. The collaboration between FAO and its Governing Bodies in setting this agenda was applauded and the transformative role of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform in accelerating the necessary action was acknowledged.

Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO, presented an introduction and the context of the Dialogue. Participants were invited to consider how to move

away from a business-as-usual situation (i.e. working in silos) towards a structured and coherent mode of action. It was mentioned that the Dialogue will represent the first milestone in building bridges across agricultural and environmental sectors. FAO, in collaboration with its partners, aims to facilitate the implementation of concerted actions for the conservation, sustainable use, management and restoration of biodiversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels. In this context, participants were informed that the main aim of the Dialogue was to identify concrete actions for the future work of FAO in this area, and that these results would be shared with both the FAO technical committees and the CBD's fourteenth Conference of the Parties (COP14) in Egypt in November 2018. Lastly, an overview of the agenda was provided for the three days of the Dialogue.



# Session I: Strengthening synergies between agriculture sectors and biodiversity

Agriculture has traditionally contributed to creating landscapes rich in biodiversity. However, it has also had negative impacts through practices such as land use change, overfishing, overuse of pesticides and nutrients. The session was chaired by Mr Clayton Campanhola, Strategic Programme Leader, FAO, for a discussion on synergies as well as trade-offs in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors.

The session was opened by Mr David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, CBD, with a presentation illustrating an overview of CBD's work on mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture sectors. The importance was emphasized of the extensive collaboration between FAO and CBD on agricultural biodiversity, including the Programmes of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Forest Biodiversity. Spatial planning in landscapes, ecosystem protection and restoration were depicted as important future priorities for biodiversity. The current dietary patterns of numerous societies were described as not sustainable from an environmental perspective and were also revealed to have negative impacts on human health.

Subsequently, Ms Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission, presented the European experiences on biodiversity and agriculture moving towards sustainability. Positive local impacts are outweighed by ongoing agricultural intensification overall and, although much progress has been made, the demand for natural resources continues to grow. The implementation of European biodiversity policies was hailed, to be facilitated by a continuous and binding review mechanism. The importance was noted of healthy ecosystems for all, in particular owing to their significance for food security and nutrition, health and climate adaptation. In addition, hope was expressed that the fifteenth Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework would deliver a “Paris moment” for biodiversity.

Mr Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, World Trade Organization, addressed the subjects of biodiversity and trade. The opportunities and challenges presented by trade for the sustainable management of natural resources (including biodiversity) were mentioned, in concurrence with the advocacy for multilateral agreements. Increased consumption was indicated as a risk to the environment and biodiversity, particularly in places with weak governance systems. In addition, increased trade could lead to the spread of pests and diseases. The WTO did not set environmental standards, nonetheless a committee concerning trade and environment had been established. The coherence of trade rules and multilateral environment agreements was deemed important. On the positive side, trade could provide new and growing markets for products derived from the sustainable management of natural resources. The development of standards for biodiverse products was suggested as an important area of work for the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform.



Ms Alison Cairns, Managing Director for Food Systems Transformation, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), presented the need for biodiversity mainstreaming in food systems and explained various initiatives undertaken by WBCSD in this regard, including a collaboration with EAT regarding the Food Reform for Sustainability and Health (FReSH) partnership. Indeed, this partnership aims to develop, implement and scale transformative business solutions that are aligned with science-based targets. Specifically, these initiatives begin with the consumer, focusing on the dietary shifts that are required and working back through the food system to determine which items should be grown, where and how, in order to create healthy and enjoyable food for all, produced responsibly within planetary boundaries by 2030. WBCSD has also written a handbook on biodiversity and business with IUCN.

Lastly, Mr Magatte Wade, Secretary General of the Mayors of Ecological Cities of Senegal, reported on the difficulties of biodiversity mainstreaming from the perspective of a city manager. Warnings were given about the threats of intensifying agriculture via the greater use of pesticides, calling instead for an agro-ecological approach. Further challenges were also mentioned, such as rapidly changing consumption patterns in Africa, climate change, pollution from mining, soil degradation and women's access to land. It was emphasized that overcoming poverty was the key to achieving the SDGs and this objective should be reached through investments that benefit all people, taking a green economy approach. In addition, investments should not take the form of aid, as this could lead to dependency in recipient countries.

Following these interventions, participants raised several questions and made comments on the links between biodiversity, agriculture, diets and health. The discussion highlighted that current dietary patterns of numerous societies are not sustainable from an environmental perspective, and they also have negative impacts on human health, providing important opportunities for synergies between human health and sustainability. The discussion identified several interrelated priorities that would be necessary in order to address these problems: 1) enhanced use of biodiversity in agricultural production, 2) sustainable fisheries, 3) spatial planning in the landscape, and 4)



healthy and sustainable diets. These priorities require cooperation between actors along the supply chain, from farmers to consumers, processors, retailers, and governments. The importance of investing in effective capacity development and empowerment of farmers, training, education and extension services, as well as institutional strengthening was stressed by several participants. The privatisation of extension services in many countries presents challenges. Research (including participatory research) and training are required to address new biodiversity related challenges such as climate change.

Discussions underlined the risks and opportunities of trade for biodiversity. In particular, several participants expressed the need for international standards in order to take advantage of opportunities to increase trade in sustainable products. Concurrently, transparency is required to ensure that standards do not mask trade restrictions. Enhanced cooperation on the development of environmentally credible and coherent international standards that protect biodiversity were identified as potential instruments for moving towards more sustainable trade, including the protection of biodiversity. In addition, the discussions regarding the presentation of WBCSD and, more generally, on the role of the private sector, recognized that the private sector is increasingly organized to respond to issues related to sustainability, including biodiversity. In particular, participants registered positive feedback concerning efforts to reduce land expansion, exploring how to support regenerative agriculture and facilitate



consumer shifts to more diversified diets. A wide range of existing initiatives at all levels were discussed and important initiatives at urban level were presented. In Senegal, for example, a group of mayors set up the Network of Ecological Cities of Senegal with the objective of supporting a green economy based on agroecology, family farming, protection of the environment and biodiversity, and creation of green jobs. At regional level the EU pollinator's initiative will soon be launched. At global level, some participants said that the upcoming Conference of the Parties of the CBD in 2020 in China should be the "Paris moment" for the biodiversity agenda.

## Session II: Biodiversity mainstreaming in practice

The session on biodiversity mainstreaming in practice gathered panellists from a range of backgrounds who spoke about the role of donors, conservationists, national governments, the private sector and FAO. The session was chaired by Ms Ismahane Elouafi, Director-General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture.

The session was opened by Mr Eric Patrick, Climate Change Specialist at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Biodiversity was described as moving up on IFAD's agenda and it was underlined that biodiversity is a means to an end and not an end in itself. Biodiversity has been integrated, for instance, into IFAD's policy on livelihood resilience. IFAD has conducted an inventory of its biodiversity projects and they include, for example, projects for landscape restoration. Although a number of projects include biodiversity targets (such as climate adaptation in smallholder farming), the challenge is represented by the fact that these targets are not measurable, i.e. that appropriate metrics are lacking. Also, it was stated that an important mechanism to mainstream biodiversity is through environmental safeguards.

Mr David S. Wilkie, Director of Conservation Measures at the Wildlife Conservation Society, warned of the mixed impacts of global trade on the environment. On one hand, the rise in demand for organic and wildlife friendly products is a positive driver but, on the other, consumers are often unaware of the environmental consequences of their consumption patterns. It was noted that conservationists are increasingly focusing on promoting better agriculture production in 95% of the ecosystems that have already been turned over to production, in order to protect the last intact ecosystems on earth (5%). It was pointed out that agricultural production, particularly livestock, must be more efficient and should utilize less land. Specific strategies to attain this include: reducing reliance on intensively fed ruminants; increasing production of poultry, rodents and fish; using insects as livestock feed.

Mr Hesiquio Benítez Díaz, Director-General of International Cooperation and Implementation at the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) of Mexico, highlighted the role of national public policies, backed by political will, in mainstreaming biodiversity, pointing to Mexico's new strategy for biodiversity



mainstreaming in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors. A newly launched automated system was presented that allows the evaluation of national subsidies and incentives across sectors and administrations through spatial analysis tools. Mexico has also developed an agreement between the ministries of environment and of agriculture for promoting coordination of the activities, enabling agricultural production to complement biodiversity efforts rather than affect them. Lastly, the discussions in the session reiterated the important role of FAO in providing support to countries in mainstreaming biodiversity, including through facilitating dialogues such as the upcoming regional dialogue on biodiversity mainstreaming in Latin America and the Caribbean. The importance for FAO to develop a strategy on biodiversity was also stressed.

Ms Annie Sandgren, Director of Wood Supply and Forestry at IKEA, pointed out that private sector companies which depend on natural resources have an interest in ensuring the sustainability of their raw materials. IKEA, for example, has integrated sustainability principles into its operations and prioritizes the sourcing of sustainable materials and recycling. The company plans to source all of its wood and paper from sustainable sources by 2020. Emphasis was placed on practical and feasible certification schemes for small forest holders in the North and South. As one of the major challenges in working with small forest holders was the existence

of weak tenure rights, the need was underlined for secure tenure rights backed by the government. Participants raised a number of issues following the panellists' presentations. The discussion in this session also highlighted the importance of farmers and indigenous peoples, as well as their knowledge systems. The key role of local and indigenous peoples was reiterated as allies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In the discussion, it clearly emerged that biodiversity is a cultural and social asset for local and indigenous peoples and it also provides nutrition. Panellists responded that respecting the rights of indigenous peoples is very important for protecting biodiversity, encompassing participation in decision-making as well as in monitoring the impacts of decisions. It was also highlighted that win-win institutional arrangements do exist, such as Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas. Such approaches are important as the integrated management of production landscape-wide is deemed necessary for biodiversity protection. The unit of intervention should be the landscape and not the farm, but this is challenging to achieve institutionally. A further area of major discussion was represented by sustainable consumption. Consumers are, in fact, increasingly calling for healthy foods and this could offer an opportunity to diversify diets, including from wild sources. At the same time, it was underlined that the growing demand for animal sourced foods is a challenge in terms of protecting the last remaining natural ecosystems.

## Sessions III and IV: Working Groups

Participants addressed the topic of biodiversity mainstreaming in four parallel thematic working groups: global governance; national policies and legislation; incentives and investment; and voluntary certification schemes.

### Working Group I: Biodiversity mainstreaming through global governance

The working group focused on discussing and identifying strengths and challenges of the current international governance ‘architecture’ and processes for driving an effective mainstreaming of biodiversity (policy, regulatory and practical measures) across agricultural sectors. The working group was co-chaired by H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and H.E. Martha Bárcena Coqui (Mexico). The discussions began with three presentations.

Mr Mark Zimsky, Biodiversity Focal Area Coordinator, Global Environment Facility (GEF), considered the nature and design of successful mainstreaming projects and the challenges of shifting from protecting natural reserves towards the sustainable use of biodiversity across production sectors. A recent review of GEF biodiversity mainstreaming projects identified that all models and approaches,

as well as the most straightforward activities such as spatial and land-use planning, involve lengthy iterative processes. Projects that did not take this into account during the design process underperformed. Concurrently, the success of spatial and land-use planning as a mainstreaming investment requires political will in order to ensure that the results are integrated into government decision-making and planning at the appropriate level. This process takes time and requires the engagement of relevant stakeholders from the outset. Assessing the outcomes of biodiversity mainstreaming projects and their contribution to biodiversity status remains a critical challenge during the lifetime of the project. More robust proxy indicators are thus necessary.

Ms Chee Yoke Ling, Executive Director, Third World Network, focused on the various treaties and mechanisms that are relevant to biodiversity, emphasizing the synergies that exist among them as well as the need to resolve several contradictions. One of the main contradictions stems from the promotion of global trade (which is a driver of the unsustainable use of natural resources) and the need to conserve biodiversity. Another governance issue with potential impacts on biodiversity are seed laws. Indeed, an estimated 75% of plant genetic diversity has been lost as farmers worldwide have abandoned their local varieties for modern high-yielding ones.



© FAO / Giuseppe Carotenuto

These produce high yields under conditions such as intensive irrigation and the use of agrochemicals. The spread of modern varieties has generally led to the marginalization of local ones and farmer-managed seed systems, as well as to a decline in agricultural biodiversity. The use of these varieties is supported through seed laws that are currently being promoted in numerous developing countries, in some cases with the support of international laws (e.g. International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants). These laws aim at expanding formal seed systems while other international laws seek to preserve landraces (e.g. the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture).

Mr Salman Hussain, Coordinator of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), highlighted the invisible value of biodiversity and presented the TEEB AgriFood study as a tool for a comprehensive economic evaluation of the “eco-agri-food systems” complex. Valuation (including both monetary and non-monetary values) was presented as an important means for mainstreaming biodiversity, as the aim is to demonstrate value using economic tools and methods, making services economically visible and allowing decision-makers to act following an assessment of the full costs and benefits of policies. The proposed framework illustrated that the production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of food systems have impacts on society, the economy, environment and human health. In this context, the TEEB approach aims to influence three different levels of action: 1) Recognizing value – identifying the wide range of benefits in ecosystems, landscapes and biodiversity such as provisioning, regulating, habitat-supporting and cultural services; 2) Demonstrating value – using economic tools and methods to make nature’s services economically visible in order to support decision-makers wishing to assess the full costs and benefits of land use change; 3) Capturing value – incorporating ecosystem and biodiversity benefits into decision-making through incentives and price signals.

The presentations triggered the working group discussion which focused on the role of FAO, metrics for monitoring and evaluation and research for development. The summary report of the working group discussion is contained in Appendix 4.



## Working Group II: Biodiversity mainstreaming through national policies and legislation

This working group aimed to discuss and identify the strengths and challenges of selected national policies and processes for driving an effective mainstreaming of biodiversity (including land use management policy, market-based policy instruments and legislation) across agricultural sectors. The working group was chaired by H.E. Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte (Brazil) and the discussions began with three presentations.

Ms Katia Karousakis, Biodiversity Team Leader, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), presented a range of policy instruments that could be utilized for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These included regulatory approaches (such as permits and quotas), economic instruments (such as the reform of environmentally harmful subsidies) and information and voluntary approaches (such as eco-labelling). In addition to national policy instruments, the need to integrate biodiversity objectives into legislation was also identified (for example via the adoption of ecosystem-based approaches in fisheries legislation). It was emphasized that subsidies can have major environmental impacts and that the levels of subsidies are sizeable: fossil fuel production and consumption (at least USD 400 billion per year globally), water use and treatment (around USD 450 billion globally in 2012) and agricultural production (approximately USD 100 billion in support of

agriculture provided by OECD countries in 2015 is considered potentially environmentally harmful). According to the OECD perspective, policy priorities include: 1) removing and reforming environmentally harmful subsidies; 2) investing in data and indicators, including in the valuation of the contribution of biodiversity to the different economic sectors; and 3) strengthening monitoring and evaluation. Finally, OECD research established that enabling effective biodiversity policy reform requires forging alliances across different groups, building a robust evidence base (especially on costs and benefits), supporting stakeholder engagement and consolidating gains.

Ms Teresa Agüero, Office of Agricultural Studies and Policies, Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, reported that the success of biodiversity mainstreaming in Chile was closely related to national legislation which set national and international standards and protocols that recognize the role of biodiversity in the value chain of selected products and services. In essence, labelling was found to play a key role. The principal areas of work were distributed between the Government and the private sector, in view of the Government's role in promoting sustainable agriculture and protocols for the incorporation of sustainability practices and standards, joined by the private sector's work in achieving compliance with market standards and protocols and voluntary certifications. The main lesson learned has been that governance at national and local levels, including public-private coordination and networking, has proven to be key in identifying strengths, needs and gaps, and working together in the elaboration of policies and strategies.

Ms Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc, Head of the Division of Science and International Cooperation, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam, presented the recent national legislation framework that is used in Vietnam to mainstream biodiversity into development planning. It has also established its institutional structure for biodiversity conservation from central to local level. Accordingly, all policy action plans are required to conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) to ensure that impacts on the environment in general, and biodiversity in particular, will be reduced. In addition, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are required for development projects. While

these have been positive steps, several obstacles have also been identified, including the difficulties facing enforcement and implementation of the strategies and legislation, the overlapping functions among line ministries and the insufficient human and financial resources for biodiversity mainstreaming. Nonetheless, in moving forward the following priorities were underlined, as they could assist in overcoming these obstacles: demonstrating the biodiversity value for economic development, including measurement of its economic value; integrating biodiversity in the national accounting system and its direct comparison (and contribution) to GDP; strengthening collaboration among ministries (in particular the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).

The presentations triggered the working group discussion, which focused on the next steps for FAO and its Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform, including the need to promote dialogue, knowledge exchange, facilitate implementation and support the process to develop the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The summary report of the working group discussion is contained in Appendix 4.

### **Working Group III: Biodiversity mainstreaming through incentives and investment**

This working group focused on how incentives and investment can assist farmers, fishermen and forest managers to take biodiversity into consideration in their production practices. The objective was to identify incentives and investment programmes that have been implemented for biodiversity mainstreaming in the agriculture sectors. The working group was co-chaired by H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland) and H.E. Godfrey C. Magwenzi (Zimbabwe). The dialogue was opened by three presentations.

Ms Ann Tutwiler, Director-General, Bioversity International, underlined that we all "own" the agenda around biodiversity mainstreaming, calling for concerted action by all stakeholders. Concrete examples of incentives and investments that drive biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors were presented. Working in Turkey, Brazil,

Kenya and Sri Lanka, the Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Initiative promotes dietary diversity, for example through developing dietary guidelines and linking smallholders producing traditional crops with school meals programmes. Subsequently, the Bioversity International's Agrobiodiversity Index that aims to assess and track agrobiodiversity in sustainable food systems was presented. The tool measures agricultural biodiversity across three dimensions: in diets and markets; in production and ecosystems; in genetic resources. It also envisages assisting decision-makers (such as governments, investors, companies, farmers and consumers) to ensure that food systems are diverse and sustainable.

Ms Eva Teekens, Program Manager, Rabobank Foundation, described the Kickstart Food programme, which aims to change the way food is produced, distributed and consumed in order to nourish everyone while respecting planetary boundaries. The programme aspires to accelerate sustainability transitions by helping clients and partners to develop and scale innovations across the food value chain. The programme is based on four pillars: earth (with a focus on maintaining soil fertility), waste (to reduce food waste throughout the entire food value chain), stability (for example by advising farmers on how to set-up cooperatives and explore 'true pricing' to reinforce farmers' positions) and nutrition (by connecting experts from food, agriculture and healthcare sectors). Guided by these four pillars, Rabobank Foundation supports specific activities. For example, it has provided 150 soil scanners for farmers in Kenya to enhance farmers' knowledge about their soils, which could lead to improving crop yields by up to 50%.

Mr Antonio Gonzalez, Agroecology Movement of Latin America and Coordinator of the Biodiversity Working Group of the International Committee for Food Sovereignty, declared that agricultural biodiversity has coevolved with indigenous and local communities over thousands of years. He stated that biodiversity is being lost as a result of policies and investments that favour profits over sustainability. Such policies and investments are not only having a negative impact on biodiversity, but also on the peoples who have based their sustenance on this biodiversity for millennia. Consequently, any investments would have to respect the principle of

free, prior and informed consent. Smart investments would achieve biodiversity goals, while also contributing to climate adaptation and mitigation and poverty reduction. Investments in agroecology, for instance, have the potential to reach all these objectives. The importance of respecting farmers' rights over genetic resources was emphasized, as stipulated in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The presentations triggered the working group discussion, which focused on incentives, investment and voluntary certification schemes, knowledge management, partnerships, global governance, national policies and the role of FAO. The summary report of the working group discussion is contained in Appendix 4.

#### **Working Group IV: Biodiversity mainstreaming along value chains: voluntary certification schemes**

The working group focused on biodiversity mainstreaming along value chains and relevant experiences from existing voluntary certification schemes. The working group was co-chaired by H.E. Gunnvor Berge (Norway) and Mr Brian Baldwin (International Agri-Food Network). Three keynote speakers provided inputs for discussion.

Ms Contessa Kellogg-Winters, Communications Director at the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), presented the experience of the ASC which is a non-profit organization promoting sustainability in the aquaculture sector through a voluntary third-party certification system. Aquaculture is the fastest growing method of food production and currently parallels output with the global beef production volume. The aquaculture industry is growing rapidly and already produces 50% of seafood consumed. Although aquaculture is amongst the most efficient methods of producing protein, the rapid growth of the industry is having an impact on global biodiversity. This influence can trickle down at farm level, as farms are often located in areas with high biodiversity (in close proximity to waterways, shorelines or other wetlands), or as a result of the need to produce feed (75-80% of the feed ingredients are derived from terrestrial agriculture) and the associated requirements to source the component materials



from both marine and terrestrial environments. This has led to a growing interest in certification in this sector. ASC has therefore developed certification systems for shrimp, salmon and fish feed.

Mr Gábor Figeczky, Head of Global Policy at IFOAM Organics International, recalled that despite the threats to biodiversity resulting from agriculture, farming and biodiversity are not inevitably incompatible. Solutions rely on major shifts in policies, practices, behaviours and knowledge to explore how farming and biodiversity can be reconciled. Organic farming, for example, sustains ecosystems by supporting agro-biodiversity, maintaining healthy soils and soil fauna, reducing the risk of water pollution and decreasing the demand for synthetic inputs. It was pointed out that, besides third-party certification required for international trade, there

are local organic quality assurance systems (such as Participatory Guarantee Systems) which can only be used for domestic sales. Producers are certified based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange. They contribute to establishing sustainable and fair food systems by: 1) ensuring that the smallest farmers can have access to organic markets; 2) ensuring the integrity of organic products in a cost-effective, transparent way; 3) facilitating local production and consumption of organic food.

Mr Fernando Lopez, Managing Director, Confederation of Organizations of Family Producers of Mercosur (COPROFAM), described the experiences of family farmers in the Mercosur countries<sup>4</sup> and commented on recent changes in the agriculture sector in the region. Land in the region is increasingly being brought into cultivation by large-scale agriculture and this has presented challenges for family farms, which still produce approximately 75% of basic foods consumed in the region. Family farms were highlighted as playing a key role in sustainable food production. In addition, public policies should promote sustainable rural development taking into account environmental, socioeconomic and economic aspects. Consumers increasingly demand healthy and organic food (which is produced by taking biodiversity aspects into account), however certification systems should be made more attractive and less costly for family farmers in order to enable them to benefit from this rising demand.

The presentations triggered the working group discussion. The summary report of the working group discussion is contained in Appendix 4.

## Session V: Future activities of the biodiversity mainstreaming platform

The session on the future activities of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform focused on considering the reports of the four thematic working groups. The Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of the Environment of Poland, Slawomir Mazurek,

expressed the important links between biodiversity and climate change. It was confirmed that Poland will preside over the 24th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which has been tasked with concluding the work

<sup>4</sup> Mercosur member states are Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil.

programme of the Paris Agreement. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries were described as amongst the sectors most vulnerable to climate impacts and the important role of relevant UN agencies (FAO and CBD in particular) at the upcoming COP was underlined. The Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform was welcomed. Land restoration and good soil management were identified as two examples of approaches that contribute both to conservation and food security. The essential role was stressed of non-governmental stakeholders, trade unions, cities, the private sector and research in translating policy targets into reality.

The four working groups presented their reports, which included suggestions for the future priorities of the Mainstreaming Biodiversity Platform (available in Appendix 4). The ensuing discussion highlighted that biodiversity mainstreaming contributes to several interrelated international processes such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Rio Conventions (CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD). Participants stated that biodiversity mainstreaming is not a new approach, but that more work is required to achieve impact at scale. Simultaneously, it was recalled that biodiversity is already mainstreamed in numerous traditional and small-scale production systems. Both small and large farms require biodiversity, but it must be recognised that approaches for biodiversity mainstreaming should be tailored to specific farming systems (as similar approaches will not necessarily work in different systems). Attention should be paid especially to smallholders who contribute greatly to food security and nutrition, and who are holders of important knowledge related to biodiversity. Participants agreed that mainstreaming biodiversity needs to focus on all three levels of biodiversity: genetic, species and ecosystems. In countries such as France and Senegal, public sector support for agroecology is a practical way of mainstreaming biodiversity. Several participants called for a reduction in subsidies for pesticides and fertilisers as an essential means to promote biodiversity mainstreaming. Valuation (in terms of both monetary and non-monetary costs) of biodiversity and ecosystem services is an important way for influencing change most directly.

CBD, as Dialogue co-organizers, welcomed the enthusiasm and ownership manifested by the

permanent representatives of FAO member states at the Dialogue. CBD representatives maintained that the role of the agriculture sectors is particularly crucial for the promotion of the biodiversity agenda. The goal of the Cancun Declaration, adopted at CBD COP 13, entailed agricultural sectors taking the lead in moving forward with biodiversity mainstreaming. The Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors was an indication that this was already taking place. Regarding the post-2020 biodiversity framework, CBD would appreciate a “Paris moment” (referring to the voluntary commitments under the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC) at COP 15, whilst undergoing COP 14 preparations. Inputs from the agricultural sectors in the design of the post-2020 biodiversity framework were welcomed. Participants recognised that delivering a “Paris moment” for biodiversity would require a major mobilisation initiated by FAO, but also at national level involving all sectors and stakeholders. It was recalled that biodiversity will be a key issue for the G7 in 2019, under the French presidency. In addition, regional bodies, such as the African Union Commission should also be involved in developing the post-2020 biodiversity framework. The Dialogue considered concrete future work of FAO acting as a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform in support of biodiversity mainstreaming within and across agricultural sectors at national, regional and global levels. FAO’s role as a trusted convener during the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform was globally appreciated. The main proposals for its future priorities are reflected in the Joint Report of the co-chairs of the Working Groups (Appendix 5).

The discussions were closed by Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO, emphasizing that the Dialogue was a starting point on a critical journey towards sustainability and that the next step would entail the preparation of an action plan. It was recalled that the Dialogue is part of a series of important events organized by FAO in 2018, including high level meetings regarding Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), agroecology, soil pollution and innovation for smallholders. These events would contribute to discussions in the forthcoming sessions of relevant Governing Bodies of FAO.

# High-level segment

## Report on the outcome of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming

Ms Martha Bárcena Coqui presented the Joint Report of the co-chairs of the Working Groups<sup>5</sup> (full text available in Appendix 5). The scene was set by reminding that the Dialogue brought together stakeholders from governments, research, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. Over the duration of three plenary sessions and four working groups, the Dialogue confirmed the timeliness and necessity of FAO's acting as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. In fact, the informal Dialogue brought together a range of views of priorities for the Platform. Firstly, this initiative should complement and not duplicate other programmes and, secondly, it should capitalize on FAO's role as a neutral forum for policy dialogue, its convening and facilitation power at different levels, and its technical support and knowledge management functions. As stated in the Joint Report of the co-chairs, the Dialogue emphasized that the Platform should explore an integrated/systemic approach with the Rio Conventions, reinforce synergies and use the SDGs to develop links with implementation goals. This requires an integrated vision for agriculture and food systems. The outcomes of this Dialogue are expected to represent one of the highlights of the CBD COP 14 in Egypt, underpinning the mandate of the Cancun Declaration. Hope was expressed that the CBD COP 15 in China would become the 'Paris of biodiversity', stressing the links between biodiversity loss and climate change and the risks associated with in action. Three cross-cutting issues that ran across the debates in the four working groups were:

1. The absolute need to prepare a Biodiversity Strategy setting out future activities, at the latest by 2020 and in collaboration with partners such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other UN organizations, as well as relevant stakeholders;

2. The catalytic role of knowledge management;
3. The importance of metrics.

Knowledge management was identified as a critical driver of change. The Platform was invited to facilitate the sharing of information, including case studies and communities of practice concerning valuation, policies and legislation, concurrently promoting learning among farmers, stakeholders and decision-makers in order to recognize the value of local and indigenous knowledge in using and preserving biodiversity. Data collection was also mentioned, as well as the development of metrics and indicators to measure the impact and performance of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity at its three levels, involving research and other stakeholders such as consumers and suppliers. The suggested actions fell in the following clusters: 1) Global governance, 2) National policies and legislation, 3) Incentives, investment and voluntary certification schemes. Within these clusters, a range of activities were proposed, including the development of a biodiversity strategy for FAO to improve mainstreaming biodiversity across FAO's departments and work. It was also proposed that FAO should contribute to CBD's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, including baseline data and information for potential targets and commitments. Regarding national policies and legislation, one of the proposed priorities was to assist countries in raising awareness on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their essential role for human well-being. Another proposal targeted food and nutrition security. The identification and promotion of approaches and practices that effectively mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within and across agricultural sectors, across landscapes and seascapes (using experiences with agroecology and GIAHS) with a focus on strengthening research, training, extension services and institutional as well as multi-stakeholder collaboration was also proposed. Regarding

5 The co-chairs were: H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran) and H.E. Martha Bárcena Coqui (Mexico), Mr Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte (Brazil), H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland) and H.E. Godfrey C. Magwenzi (Zimbabwe), Ms Gunnvor Berge (Norway) and Mr Brian Baldwin (International Agri-Food Network)

incentives, investment and voluntary certification schemes, one of the proposed priorities was the improvement of methods for valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services in national accounts, as well as the removal of disincentives and the compiling of an inventory of the existing certification schemes in different agricultural sectors and regions.

### Panel discussion: Mainstreaming biodiversity at the global level<sup>6</sup>

Mr David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, CBD, underlined the importance of making better use of biodiversity to support agricultural production through enhanced pollination, pest control, soil fertility and the use of genetic resources. This would, in fact, contribute to sustainable production and healthy diets. Biodiversity is regarded as a solution to achieve the SDGs, and making use of biodiversity is essential for meeting biodiversity, climate change and land degradation commitments, as well as to increase peoples' overall quality of life. The continuation of discussions among FAO governing bodies is envisaged in order to translate the outcomes of this dialogue into tangible results at national level. The dialogue should continue by utilizing the multi-stakeholder approach, including farmers' organizations and, among them, female households in particular. This would help shape discussions for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will be agreed at COP 15 in Beijing in 2020.

Mr Khaled Mohamed Fahmi, Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, Egypt, stated that successful biodiversity mainstreaming required working effectively across different sectors and stakeholders. This included the business sector as well as ministries that do not have an environmental focus, such as the Ministry of Planning and Finance. The CBD COP 14, hosted in Egypt, would seek to contribute to cross-sectoral collaboration. The importance of linking the three Rio Conventions regarding climate, biodiversity and desertification was underlined. Regarding climate change, it was proposed to include biodiversity in the agenda at COP 24 of the UNFCCC in Poland, in view of its relevance to both adaptation and mitigation. In Egypt, the environment and agriculture sectors are presently working together. In fact, recently the Ministries of Environment

and Agriculture jointly prepared a biosafety law. Egypt completed its 2030 SDG strategy and was able to mainstream biodiversity issues in sectorial programmes (energy, electricity, transportation, industry etc.) obtaining support from the Ministry of Planning, which has established the consideration of environmental factors as a necessary condition for accessing investments.

Mr Vo Tuan Nhan, Vice Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam, stressed that the Dialogue is very important for discussing biodiversity mainstreaming, particularly with regards to COP 14. He noted that Vietnam is one of the most important centres for biodiversity and this has significantly contributed to ensuring the country's food security. The government of Vietnam has made noteworthy investments in biodiversity conservation and has developed a legislative framework to integrate biodiversity in development planning. National policies have provided orientation for investments in biodiversity and both forestry and fisheries plans have started to integrate biodiversity conservation.

Dr Abdeladim Lhafi, High Commissioner for Water and Forests and Fight against Desertification, Morocco, explained that, despite all efforts, urgent environmental problems remain. Loss of biodiversity and degradation of soils continue, resulting in loss of productivity and consequences for food security. Humanity has never produced so much knowledge and scientific and technical information and yet, there has never been so much damage to the environment. It was underlined that the central challenge comes from the simplification of the complexity of nature into a more linear vision. One of the major challenges is to try to link existing efforts, for example with regards to biodiversity, climate change and desertification. So the three conventions are intimately linked. Following the 1992 Earth Summit, Morocco developed several plans concerning environmental issues, such as a national deforestation plan. The experiences of the last several decades highlighted the importance of territorial approaches, monitoring and adjusting policies according to feedback, and working with long-term plans, since ecological timeframes are much lengthier than economic ones.

<sup>6</sup> Full statements are available in Appendix 6.



Mr Tomasz Chruszczow, COP 24 Special Envoy for Climate Change and High Level Climate Champion from the Ministry of Environment, Poland, focused on the climate agenda. An important conclusion of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Dialogue was deemed to be the need to link the three Rio Conventions. The Paris Agreement was underlined as being probably the most global and comprehensive environmental agreement as it clearly recognized the vulnerability of countries, including regarding food systems, safeguarding food security and ending hunger, concurrently emphasizing the importance of conservation of biological systems that serve as carbon sinks. Carbon in soils means better soil quality, better yields and improved biodiversity. Climate policy is believed to only be successful if it takes into account the social, human, environmental and economic dimensions of any action. The unavoidable emissions would need to be balanced with the capacity of global biological systems to absorb atmospheric carbon. Therefore, integrated action to restore biodiversity, improve soil quality and fertility, and stop desertification are required.

### Panel discussion: Mainstreaming biodiversity at national level: policies, legislation, incentives, investment, value chains<sup>7</sup>

Mr Dominique Kohli, Secretary of State, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, described the numerous

initiatives of Switzerland for the promotion and protection of biodiversity, including direct payments or subsidies in support of farmers. However, the monitoring of environmental policies has revealed that, despite these efforts, biodiversity loss in the country has worsened. The underlying problems are complex and this is the reason why international consensus and commitment to biodiversity is important, as well as FAO's role. The CBD COP 15 in 2020 is expected to represent the "Paris moment" for biodiversity, referring to the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC. Momentum would need to be built through a series of preparatory activities and FAO should play a central role. In particular, as discussed during the working group sessions, FAO has the significant opportunity to mobilize civil society, stakeholders, member states and the private sector for the preparation of a new global biodiversity strategy and any new commitments.

Mr Inia Batikoko Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Fiji, insisted that the global community needs to join together in order to respond to biodiversity challenges. Biodiversity was identified as being essential for all people. Countries should be dissuaded from acting individually and encouraged to coordinate their actions with others. The importance of preserving ocean and marine ecosystems was underlined, with the objective of protecting local communities and preserving biodiversity. In Fiji and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), oceans and fisheries are of great importance and the impacts of climate change are threatening food security. In Fiji, it is estimated that fisheries' contribution to GDP is approximately 49%. The productivity of coastal fisheries is related to the health of the surrounding mangrove and marine ecosystems. At the same time, oceans need to be in a healthy state to act as a carbon sink. Therefore, it is crucial to maintain and conserve the biodiversity of marine ecosystems and to reflect this in national commitments, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC.

Mr Christian F.J.T. Diatta, General Secretary, Ministry of the Solidarity-Based Economy and Microfinance, Senegal, explained the importance

<sup>7</sup> Full statements are available in Appendix 6.

of the local economy in Senegal. In particular, the Ministry is working on the promotion of geographical indications that could promote the local economy through the valuing of biodiversity. Geographical indications are labels for products from a particular territory/location with certain specific characteristics due to their origin. They make it easier for consumers to differentiate quality products in the market whilst simultaneously protecting producers' outputs. The ultimate aim is to render local agriculture competitive, achieve the sustainable use of biodiversity and enable healthy diets. Local products (produits de terroirs) could also assist in preserving the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and prevent the rural

exodus by strengthening local economies. It was noted that the Ministry works directly with producers and cooperatives, including for the formulation of a national orientation document regarding a sectoral policy for the development of a social and solidarity economy. Two national programmes have been developed, the first concerning the promotion of local products and value chains for local fruits and vegetables according to the principles of social and solidarity economy, while the second provides support to family farming with the aim of achieving food self-sufficiency and environmental preservation through agroecology, crop-livestock integration and the use of biogas.

## Closing remarks<sup>8</sup>

Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO, closed the Dialogue by welcoming the widespread agreement that FAO should continue to act as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform, emphasizing that this initiative was both timely and necessary.

and nutritious diets. Recalling that family farmers are the foremost custodians of agricultural biodiversity, it was highlighted that the upcoming UN Decade on Family Farming would provide an important opportunity for mainstreaming biodiversity.

Biodiversity mainstreaming across the agricultural sectors was defined as being part of an essential "paradigm shift". The agriculture of the future needs to conserve biodiversity and manage natural resources sustainably. This would protect the ecosystem functions of biodiversity: nutrient cycling, soil formation and rehabilitation, carbon sequestration, habitat provision for wild species, biological pest control and pollination. In this way, the agriculture of the future would become more resilient and, thus, more diverse, and it would ensure healthy

FAO, acting as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform, is in the position of providing important contributions to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO is entrusted to raise the voice of agriculture and contribute towards the preparation of COP 14, to be held in November 2018 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. In conclusion, COP 15 in Beijing should send a strong signal related to biodiversity, similar to the signal sent at the Paris Agreement related to climate change.

<sup>8</sup> The full statement is available in Appendix 6.

# GLOBAL POLLINATION PROJECT

## PRACTICE

Successful pollination is a prerequisite for food and fiber production. In the face of climate change, biodiversity loss, and other environmental pressures, it is essential to ensure that pollination services are available to support the world's growing population. In response to these challenges, the International Management of Pollinators for Livestock, Aquaculture, and Food and Fiber Production (IMPLAF) project was established. The objective of this project is to develop and demonstrate sustainable practices for pollination services in various agricultural systems through an evidence-based approach.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Pollination is a critical service that supports the production of a wide range of agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, and nuts.
- Pollination is essential for the production of many of the world's most important crops, including wheat, rice, and corn.
- The loss of pollinators can have significant impacts on food security and livelihoods, particularly in rural areas.
- The International Management of Pollinators for Livestock, Aquaculture, and Food and Fiber Production (IMPLAF) project is a global effort to address these challenges.

## IMPACTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

The project has had a significant impact on the world's pollination services. Through the development of evidence-based practices, the project has helped to improve the sustainability of pollination services in various agricultural systems. This has led to increased food security and livelihoods for many rural communities. The project has also raised awareness of the importance of pollinators and the need to protect them. This has led to the implementation of various conservation measures, such as the creation of pollinator-friendly habitats and the use of sustainable agricultural practices. The project has also provided technical assistance and training to farmers and other stakeholders, helping them to adopt more sustainable practices. Overall, the project has made a significant contribution to the sustainable management of pollination services.

40% Larger global demand for natural forage

33% Increase in local production

27% Increase in global production

0.6 6.5 million tonnes between 2000 and 2015

### MONITORING LIVESTOCK ACTIVITY ACROSS THE WORLD: THE ROLING ANIMALS INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM

The Rolling Animals Intelligence System (RAIS) is a global system for monitoring livestock activity. It uses a combination of satellite tracking and ground-based data to provide real-time information on the location and movement of livestock. This information is used to improve the management of livestock and to identify areas where there are high concentrations of animals. RAIS is a valuable tool for farmers and other stakeholders, helping them to make more informed decisions about their livestock. The system is also used for research and policy development, providing a wealth of data on livestock activity across the world.

# Appendix 1

## Recommendations from Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition online multi-stakeholder consultation on “Mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture, fisheries and forestry for improved food security and nutrition”<sup>9</sup>

### Overview

The online consultation aimed at gathering experiences and examples from practitioners across different sectors and stakeholders to help define the objectives and develop a work programme for the FAO Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. This report presents a selection of the main points emerging from 74 multi-stakeholder contributions received from 29 countries. The outcomes of the online consultation were presented at the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors that took place in Rome on the 29th–31st May 2018.

### Summary

Participants reached a consensus that we cannot advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without biodiversity. In particular, biodiversity is a necessary and critical element to achieve the sustainable production of sufficient and nutritious food responding to the challenges posed by climate change, environmental degradation, demographic shifts, and changing diets. In addition, biodiversity is important for the conservation of the ecological foundations necessary to sustain rural livelihoods and animal and plant life.

The agricultural sectors (crop and livestock production, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry) together manage the largest terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas on Earth. All these sectors rely on biodiversity and the ecosystem functions and services they underpin, and are hence indispensable for their sustainable use and conservation. Unsustainable farming practices, such as deforestation, overfishing, and the destruction of wetlands and aquatic environments, are key threats to biodiversity.

Farming is also a major driver of agrobiodiversity loss; indeed, the intensification of food production is narrowing the genetic diversity of the plants and animals on which we rely for nutrition. However, if managed sustainably, agriculture can contribute to important ecosystem functions such as maintenance of water quality, soil fertility and pest control. Participants felt that at a macro level, promoting diversity entails a paradigm shift from industrial agriculture – which relies on a small number of crops and animal breeds – to diversified sustainable farming systems. At a national and local scale, this involves the development and implementation of coherent multi-sectoral policies that can stimulate demand for diverse foods, support the market for these crops and animal products, and guarantee the necessary transfers of knowledge.

---

<sup>9</sup> See full FSN Forum discussion on Biodiversity Mainstreaming can be accessed at <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/biodiversity-mainstreaming?page=5>. See full Summary Report report <http://www.fao.org/3/CAo978EN/cao978en.pdf>.

# Appendix 2

## Agenda of the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors

DAY 1. TUESDAY 29 MAY

Time	Title/Speakers
8.00 - 9.45	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
10.00 - 10.45	<p><b>OPENING   RED ROOM</b></p> <p>Facilitator: René Castro-Salazar, Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, FAO</p> <p><b>José Graziano da Silva</b>, Director-General, FAO  <b>Khaled Mohamed Fahmi</b>, Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, Egypt  <b>Erik Solheim</b>, Executive Director, UN Environment (video)  <b>Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko</b>, Commissioner, African Union Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture  <b>Cristiana Paşca Palmer</b>, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (video)</p> <p><b>INTRODUCTION TO THE DIALOGUE – CONTEXT</b></p> <p><b>Maria Helena Semedo</b>, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO</p>
11.00 - 13.00	<p><b>SESSION I: STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES BETWEEN AGRICULTURE SECTORS AND BIODIVERSITY   RED ROOM</b></p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Clayton Campanhola</b>, Strategic Programme Leader, FAO</p> <p><b>MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO AGRICULTURAL SECTORS: THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL BIODIVERSITY   David Cooper</b>, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURE: TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY</b>  <b>Joanna Drake</b>, Deputy Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission</p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY AND TRADE</b>  <b>Aik Hoe Lim</b>, Director, Trade and Environment Division, World Trade Organization</p> <p><b>THE NEED FOR BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING IN FOOD SYSTEMS</b>  <b>Alison Cairns</b>, Managing Director for Food Systems Transformation, World Business Council for Sustainable Development</p> <p><b>THE DIFFICULTIES OF BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING – PERSPECTIVE OF A CITY MANAGER</b>  <b>Magatte Wade</b>, Secretary General of the Mayors of Ecological Cities of Senegal</p> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>
13.00 - 15.00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
15.00 - 16.00	<p><b>SESSION II: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING IN PRACTICE   RED ROOM</b></p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Ismahane Elouafi</b>, Director-General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture</p> <p><b>INVESTMENT FOR BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTORS</b>  <b>Paul Winters</b>, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development</p> <p><b>THE DIFFICULTIES OF BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING – PERSPECTIVE OF AN NGO</b>  <b>David S. Wilkie</b>, Director, Conservation Measures, Wildlife Conservation Society</p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING EXPERIENCES OF MEXICO</b>  <b>Hesiquio Benítez Díaz</b>, Director-General, International Cooperation and Implementation, National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), Mexico</p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR</b>  <b>Annie Sandgren</b>, Director, Wood Supply and Forestry, IKEA</p> <p><b>DISCUSSION AND INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKING GROUPS</b></p>
16.00 - 16.30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>

## DAY 1. TUESDAY 29 MAY (CONTINUED)

Time	Title/Speakers
16.30 -18.00	<p><b>SESSION III: WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>WORKING GROUP I: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING THROUGH GLOBAL GOVERNANCE   GERMAN ROOM</b></p> <p>Co-chairs: <b>H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi</b> (Iran) and <b>H.E. Martha Bárcena Coqui</b> (Mexico)</p> <p>KEYNOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mark Zimsky</b>, Biodiversity Focal Area Coordinator, Global Environment Facility</li> <li>• <b>Chee Yoke Ling</b>, Executive Director, Third World Network</li> <li>• <b>Salman Hussain</b>, Coordinator, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>WORKING GROUP II: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING THROUGH NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION   ETHIOPIA ROOM</b></p> <p>Co-chairs: <b>Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte</b> (Brazil) and <b>H.E. Zenebu Tadesse Woldetsadik</b> (Ethiopia)</p> <p>KEYNOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Katia Karousakis</b>, Team leader for biodiversity, OECD</li> <li>• <b>Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc</b>, Head, Division of Science and International Cooperation, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam</li> <li>• <b>Teresa Agüero</b>, Ministry of Agriculture, Chile</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>WORKING GROUP III: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING THROUGH INCENTIVES AND INVESTMENT   PHILIPPINES ROOM</b></p> <p>Co-chairs: <b>H.E. François Pythoud</b> (Switzerland) and <b>H.E. Godfrey C. Magwenzi</b> (Zimbabwe)</p> <p>KEYNOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ann Tutwiler</b>, Director-General, Bioversity International</li> <li>• <b>Eva Teekens</b>, Program Manager, Rabobank Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Antonio Gonzalez</b>, Agroecology Movement of Latin America and Coordinator of the Biodiversity Working Group of the International Committee for Food Sovereignty</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>WORKING GROUP IV: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING ALONG VALUE CHAINS: VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION SCHEMES   MALAYSIA ROOM</b></p> <p>Co-chairs: <b>Gunnvor Berge</b> (Norway) and <b>Brian Baldwin</b> (International Agri-Food Network)</p> <p>KEYNOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Contessa Kellogg-Winters</b>, Communications Director, Aquaculture Stewardship Council</li> <li>• <b>Gábor Figeczky</b>, Head of Global Policy, IFOAM Organics International</li> <li>• <b>Fernando Lopez</b>, Managing Director, Confederation of Organizations of Family Producers of MERCOSUR (COPROFAM)</li> </ul>
18.30 - 20.30	<b>LIGHT RECEPTION</b>



## DAY 2. WEDNESDAY 30 MAY

Time	Title/Speakers
10.00 -13.00	<b>SESSION IV: WORKING GROUPS (CTD.)</b>
	<b>WORKING GROUP I: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING THROUGH GLOBAL GOVERNANCE</b>   <b>GERMAN ROOM</b>
	<b>WORKING GROUP II: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING THROUGH NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION</b>   <b>ETHIOPIA ROOM</b>
	<b>WORKING GROUP III: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING THROUGH INCENTIVES AND INVESTMENT</b>   <b>PHILIPPINES ROOM</b>
	<b>WORKING GROUP IV: BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING ALONG VALUE CHAINS: VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION SCHEMES</b>   <b>MALAYSIA ROOM</b>
13.00 -15.00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
15.00 -18.00	<b>SESSION V: FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING PLATFORM</b>   <b>RED ROOM</b> Facilitator: <b>Eduardo Mansur</b> , Director, Land and Water Division, FAO
	<b>REPORTS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS</b>
	<b>FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING PLATFORM – PLENARY DISCUSSION</b>
	<b>FAO AND BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING: FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING PLATFORM</b> <b>Maria Helena Semedo</b> , Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO

## DAY 3. THURSDAY 31 MAY - HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

10.00 - 12.45	<b>HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ON BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING ACROSS AGRICULTURAL SECTORS</b>   <b>SHEIKH ZAYED CENTRE</b> Facilitator: <b>Maria Helena Semedo</b> , Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO
	<b>REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING</b> <b>Khaled Mohamed Fahmi</b> , Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, Egypt
	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY AT NATIONAL LEVEL</b> <b>M. Abdeladim Lhafi</b> , High Commissioner for Water and Forests and Fight Against Desertification, Morocco <b>Tomasz Chruszczow</b> , COP24 Special Envoy for Climate Change - High Level Climate Champion, Ministry of Environment, Poland <b>Juliana Simões</b> , Secretary of Extractivism and Sustainable Rural Development, Ministry of the Environment, Brazil
	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY THROUGH INCENTIVES, INVESTMENT AND CERTIFICATION</b> <b>Vo Tuan Nhan</b> , Vice Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam <b>Dominique Kohli</b> , Secretary of State, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland <b>Christian F. J. T. Diatta</b> , General Secretary, Ministry of the Solidarity-Based Economy and Microfinance, Senegal
	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY AT GLOBAL LEVEL</b> <b>Khaled Mohamed Fahmi</b> , Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, Egypt <b>Ibrahim Adam Ahmed El-Dukheri</b> , Director-General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
12.45 - 13.00	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> <b>José Graziano da Silva</b> , Director-General, FAO

# Appendix 3

## Opening Statements of the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors – Plenary Session (29 May 2018)

Full session available (in video) at: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4748/icode/>

### Opening statement by Mr José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General

It is an honour to welcome you for the opening of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, which FAO is organizing in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

I would like to give a special welcome to my dear friend Gilbert, President of IFAD, and to the AU Commissioner Josefa Sacko, who have been our most important partners in the preservation of biodiversity.

Let me start by highlighting that the sustainable use of biodiversity is in the essence of FAO's work. Since its inception, FAO has provided an intergovernmental platform where biodiversity-related policies are discussed, and relevant agreements are negotiated and adopted. Let me mention five of them, which are closely related to the subject we will be discussing in this event: first, the International Plant Protection Convention, adopted in early 1951; second, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, adopted in 1995; third, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Treaty), adopted in 2001; fourth, the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, adopted in 1985 and revised in 2014; and fifth, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement to tackle illegal fishing, which entered into force in 2016.

Allow me to stress that these five agreements are part of the normative work that FAO does. But they would not be possible without the contribution of our member countries and of our decentralized office network.

FAO is also assisting countries in the implementation of global action plans adopted within the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The strong link between FAO and biodiversity could not be different. Biodiversity is essential for safeguarding global food security and nutrition, improving rural livelihoods, and enhancing the resilience of people and communities.

This is especially important nowadays in the face of emerging challenges such as the impacts of climate change, rapid urbanization and also a growing population with changing diets.

Today, the world still produces food mainly based on the principles of the Green Revolution that started more than 50 years ago, and include the use of high chemical inputs at a high cost for the environment. As a result, soil, forests, water, air quality and therefore biodiversity continue to degrade. Let me give one recent example. Some days ago, on May 20, we celebrated the first World Bee Day in Slovenia, where bees are considered a very important national issue. On that same day, we received terrible news from Argentina where about 72 million bees had died in the province of Córdoba, probably due to the use of chemicals. As you know very well, the pollination action of bees and other pollinators is essential for most of the fruits and vegetables we consume, as well as for some oilseeds and cereals. Without pollinators, it will not be possible to achieve food security for all, as called for in Sustainable Development Goal 2.

Another example of loss of biodiversity is a new study developed in the United States of America on

biomass distribution on the planet. It indicates that the human race represents just 0.01% of all life on Earth but it has eradicated 83% of all wild mammals. The biomass of domesticated poultry, for instance, is now three times greater than that of wild birds. Furthermore, human activity has led to a decrease in total fish biomass by half.

So we need to promote a transformative change in the way we produce our food. We need to put forward sustainable food systems that offer healthy and nutritious food for all, while also preserving the environment and biodiversity. If we implement sustainable farming practices, and reduce the ecological footprint of the agriculture sectors, we can give a great contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions. So it is fundamental to promote and facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity across all sectors.

Let me also highlight the importance of biodiversity for healthy diets. Nowadays, only three staple crops (rice, maize and wheat) and three animal species (cattle, pigs and chickens) provide the majority of food energy intake in the world. In Asia, for example, the number of rice varieties has dropped from thousands to less than 50. This simplification of diets that are low in variety but very high in energy and calories is contributing to the escalating problems of obesity and micronutrient deficiencies in the world. We have to promote diversification, and value the benefits of traditional and local foods. The nutrient needs for human health cannot be satisfied without animal and plant genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

FAO is reinforcing its work to promote the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in

the light of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In December 2016, we created the Department of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water to ensure that these issues are properly included in all activities of the Organization through a cross-sectoral approach. And last year, FAO launched the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. It aims to support the implementation of the commitments made by countries at the UN Biodiversity Conference held in December 2016, in Cancun, Mexico. This Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue is one of the first activities of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. So we are very happy to bring together Ministers, experts and other relevant stakeholders to take stock of the current biodiversity mainstreaming efforts, and also discuss the best way forward. This Dialogue will also be important to provide inputs to FAO Technical Committees, especially the Committee on Agriculture that will gather in October, as well as to CBD COP 14 that will be held in Egypt next November.

Before concluding, let me also add that this Dialogue is part of the events that FAO is promoting in 2018 to support countries to transform food systems. Last month, here at headquarters we held the very successful Second International Symposium on Agroecology, and also the first GIAHS High Level Event. And in the second semester, we intend to organize an International Symposium on Innovation for Smallholder and Family Farmers.

So a lot of work is going on. And I am sure that with strong commitment and efforts, the international community will be able to implement the necessary measures towards sustainable development. Preserving our biodiversity is a vital step for the future we all want.

---

**Opening statement by Mr Inia Batikoko Seruiratu,  
Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster  
Management and Meteorological Services, Fiji**

Dear Director General Dr Jose Graziano Da Silva, Excellencies, Josepha Leonel Sacko, Commissioner of African Union Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Ms Maria Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural resources of

FAO, ministers, distinguished delegates, colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen, I warmly welcome you to the first Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors! We are in “unchartered territory”, we

need to talk more and work jointly across sectors to preserve biodiversity and reach a sustainable future.

There are more than 250 participants including ministers, ambassadors, experts, NGOs' representatives and private sector leaders from both agriculture and the environment sectors. Your large presence also shows the willingness of the different stakeholders to exchange views and experiences and understand each other's point of view.

During the COP 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cancun, Mexico, FAO announced the launch of its Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. Excellencies, the Platform aims to mainstream biodiversity in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors by building bridges between sectors, identifying synergies, aligning goals, and developing integrated cross-sectoral approaches.

We are all to start a dialogue, the "major first activity of the Platform". Today we start with the first Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors. The Dialogue will facilitate coordinated action on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors to address the SDGs.

We will be discussing ideas, examining natural areas for cooperation and looking forward on issues such as what will replace the Aichi targets in 2020? How not to repeat the low implementation and achievement?

As it is being established we are not aiming at consensus. We are starting a process, we are aiming at complementing our actions to combat climate change with actions to preserve biodiversity. We have to succeed in these two tasks established since 1992 at the Rio Summit if we are going to provide a future for our children and grandchildren.

We are delighted that this Dialogue is bringing together ministers, experts and stakeholders from

all sectors, including the environment. It gives us a great opportunity to take stock of the state of current biodiversity mainstreaming efforts and relevant experiences at different levels and across various sectors. This is a trans-sectorial work that needs to be approached with a holistic perspective, including both the environmental and agricultural sectors.

Excellencies, what are the expected outcomes of an event like this? You are not expected to make any commitments, or to negotiate a declaration or a protocol, what you are expected to do is to work sincerely to develop a common agenda, to prioritize activities and start working together.

Finally, as you know, we in Fiji believe in dialogue, it is part of our traditions and culture, we hope that biodiversity will be preserved and that this dialogue will be remembered as a first gathering before the first step towards a common agenda for preserving global biodiversity.

To conclude, let me underline the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors which is also the key to Fiji and other SIDS. This is key not only for supporting the productiveness of our agricultural and fisheries sectors, but also for encouraging sustainable, biodiversity-friendly tourism to our Islands, for promoting food security and providing healthy diets for our communities, for increasing the resilience of our vulnerable communities to extreme events. And, above all, this is key to build synergies between the efforts of government and local communities, and other stakeholders, to overcome the vulnerabilities of SIDS by bringing biodiversity considerations into conventional decision-making frameworks of economic policies, and ultimately supporting SIDS policymakers' ability to facilitate a sustainable (agricultural) economy transition.

Thank you very much for your attention.

### Opening statement by Mr Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment (video)

Hello, or jumbo, as we say here in Kenya.

Thank you so much for allowing me to say a few words at this important event in Rome. Without biodiversity, agriculture will not survive and we will hardly be able to produce food. And without agriculture we cannot maintain the planet's spectacular biodiversity. Agriculture and biodiversity are two wheels of the same car and we cannot drive this planet without both of them. For almost two decades we have been proud to work closely with the FAO, the Global Environment Facility and partners around the world to make sure we do not lose sight of this important reality.

Here in Kenya, for example, we are helping local farmers protect biodiversity and turn to growing nutritious vegetables. Farmers are encouraged to

grow traditional African green leaves and vegetables on school land. These go straight to the midday meals of the children in the school and the school's principal is now proud that they eat better and healthier food and perform better at school because of it. Likewise, the European Union is banning various widely-used pesticides because we need to better protect bees, which are central to maintaining the web of life. We need much more inspirational examples like these from all corners of the world.

Farming in harmony with nature is the only way we will be able to end poverty and eradicate hunger. UN Environment is committed to working together with all of you and I look so much forward to hearing about outcomes of this event.

Thank you!

---

### Opening statement by Ms Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner, African Union Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture

Good morning everyone! Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster and meteorologist Service of Fiji, Director General of FAO, Deputy Director General of FAO, honourable ministers and distinguished ambassadors and representatives of international organizations, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed.

Allow me to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to my brother and friend Mr Graziano for inviting me to participate in this first Multi Stakeholder Dialogue. I also wish to convey warm greetings from the Chair Person of the African Union Commission, who considers issues related to agriculture and sustainable development as very important and as a priority to reach goals and objectives of our agenda 2030. I would also like to convey all my greetings from Africa.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Africa has important genetic diversity that reflects the unique and varied biological and cultural heritage, and is the

product of interaction between adaptation, a change in environment and a change in all the cultures. Overall, 33% of African land consists of forests and woodland and 27% is arid land, of which a small part is cultivated and the rest consists of Savana, grassland, arid zones and desert. Our diversity strengthens the resilience of our food system and community. This can be seen in the livestock breeds and crop varieties, which are essential breeds. It is not a secret that Africa is home to millions of subsistence farmers, small-scale livestock herders, and pastoralists who maintain a range of plants and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, which also tends to mitigate the consequences of droughts, pests and changing environment conditions. The protection of diversity and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources is a global issue for all of us.

In the African setting, the conservation of biodiversity and socio-economic development, including agriculture, are crucial sectors. The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue is therefore timely as the population is fast-increasing, mostly in Africa,

and there is a need to ensure food security alongside biodiversity conservation. Excellencies, I wish to highlight that biodiversity and agriculture is an important nexus and will enhance the integration of environmental and agricultural policy. I would like this Dialogue to explore the positive aspects of biodiversity that are beneficial to agriculture and to come up with co-benefits of biodiversity. At this juncture, permit me to acknowledge that human-wildlife conflict is a phenomenon that is also on the increase, with farmers losing their crops. To address this issue of loss of wild fauna and flora, including fish, the African Union Commission is in the process of rolling out the implementation of the African Union Strategy to combat illegal exploitation and illicit trades in wild flora and fauna in Africa.

This Dialogue provides us with an opportunity to exchange information, to revisit the decisions and recommendations made by our experts, and have a common position on biodiversity mainstreaming in agricultural sectors, bearing in mind that biodiversity should be incorporated in the national planning process of our countries.

African biodiversity resources are under unprecedented pressures. The decline and loss of biodiversity is reducing nature's contribution to our people, affecting daily lives and hampering the sustainable socio-economic development of African countries. Approximately 14%, 2 million square kilometres of the total area of Africa, is protected. Further progress is needed to improve the management effectiveness of protected areas. These valuable regions, rich in endemic species, are concentrated in countries such Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar, where adequate protection is needed. Today Africa's biodiversity is in severe decline, population growth, extensive agricultural practices, and unsustainable mining are among the key drivers of the decline, together with weak policy and governance. National protected areas including those designated by UNESCO as world natural heritage sites are seriously threatened.

Africa's coastal and marine ecosystems remain largely unprotected.

We need to take timely action together to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation, to increase food and water security, to contribute substantially to the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and avoid conflict. This is especially important to all of us considering the projected 4 billion people who will be living on dry land by 2050. Climate change will significantly reduce the number of animal and plant species.

Before moving on I would just like to reaffirm that the resources necessary for agricultural biodiversity are essential and of fundamental importance in order to sustainably increase production and ensure sustainable livelihoods for populations that depend on this type of agriculture. These resources are the raw material necessary for improving capacities and they represent a response to climate change. Therefore, they need to be protected. A better use of genetic resources is of utmost importance in order to address challenges within the framework of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Sharing is necessary to increase and improve the dialogue that we are holding here today. For the African Union Commission this means a greater awareness of degraded biodiversity areas and several international processes have been feeding into this. Are we up to the challenges that we have set ourselves? I believe that the Dialogue here today will provide us with solutions in order to achieve these objectives for 2030.

I would like to invite this platform here today to work in close collaboration with the departments of agriculture and rural affairs of the African Union Commission to ensure that we can implement all of the objectives.

Thank you very much for your kind attention!

## Opening statement by Ms Cristiana Pasca Palmer, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

At the last UN Biodiversity Conference in Cancun, in December 2016, ministers of agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as environment and tourism, adopted the Cancun Declaration on Biodiversity Mainstreaming and committed to working together on this shared agenda.

Parties to the Convention welcomed FAO Platform on Biodiversity and Agriculture for governments and stakeholders to build bridges between sectors, identify synergies, align goals, and develop integrated approaches to mainstream biodiversity in all these sectors. This Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue is an important milestone in this endeavour. Last week, on May 22nd, we celebrated International Biodiversity Day and also the 25th Anniversary of the Convention. FAO has been our very close partner in this 25-year journey, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General Mr Graziano da Silva and also the Deputy Director-General Ms Maria Helena Semedo and all the Staff at FAO for their strong and enthusiastic support for integrating biodiversity in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. I would also like to thank the Government of Mexico for its leadership in promoting the mainstreaming agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen, meeting the increasing global food demand and addressing the loss of biodiversity are two key challenges at the heart of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Without protecting and using our ecological assets in a more sustainable way we will not be able to fight hunger, improve productivity and wellbeing and achieve sustainability. Unfortunately, agriculture remains the biggest driver on land of the loss of biodiversity, especially through land use change and unsustainable cultivation practices, and overfishing, which is still a major driver for biodiversity loss in the marine realm. To address these challenges and

achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we need coherent policies at national level with the right legal or policy frameworks with incentives aligned to those frameworks and the public and stakeholders engagement, also with effective monitoring and enforcement actions. Above all, we need to create conditions for the 570 million mostly small farmers who supply our food and who, after all, are the primary ecosystem managers on the ground. We need to enable them to further integrate biodiversity in their regular practices. We also need to work with fishermen, and other communities who depend on wild sources of food, and we must work with consumers and the large companies that control or influence Global Supply Chains. To achieve the transformative changes in food systems we will need to invest in the effective management and conservation of pollinators, the use of biodiversity to control or reduce pests and diseases and in nurturing the soil as a living ecosystem. We need to use biodiversity to make agriculture more resilient and less vulnerable to natural disasters, contributing both to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you might know, there are two years remaining to implement the strategic plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the 20 Global Aichi Biodiversity targets, which also inform a number of SDGs targets. A lot of action is still needed and now is the time to accelerate implementation and this Platform plays a transformative role in supporting these efforts. At the CBD we are also getting ready to initiate work on the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted in Beijing in 2020. This year in November in Egypt we will set a long-term agenda to 2050. I look forward to collaborating with FAO and its technical committees and Governing Bodies in the developing of this agenda, and I would like to thank you all for your attention and invite you to continue this exciting dialogue. Thank you very much for your attention!

## Opening statement by Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO

Good morning and thank you to all! Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, dear friends,

Welcome to the first Multi-stakeholder dialogue on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors. I will share with you the context and the agenda of this dialogue. We are delighted that this dialogue is bringing together ministers, experts and stakeholders from all sectors, including the environment. This meeting is a clear indication of the increased interest in biodiversity, including biodiversity for food and agriculture. Your large presence also shows the willingness of the different stakeholders to exchange views and experiences and understand each other's point of view.

This is the first meeting of its kind held by FAO and we are very pleased to see so many of you from different stakeholder groups here today. I hope your presence is also a sign of a growing consensus that things have to change and that they will only change if the different stakeholders work together. We cannot continue to do business as usual and cannot continue working alone in silos. Therefore, what we want from this discussion today is to build bridges and work together across sectors.

At the last Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Mexico, FAO announced the launch of its Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. The Platform was also included in the Cancun Declaration. The Platform aims to mainstream biodiversity in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors by: building bridges between sectors; identifying synergies; aligning goals; and developing integrated cross-sectoral approaches. Later, the FAO Conference welcomed the Platform and it also requested FAO to facilitate, in collaboration with its partners “the integration in a structured and coherent manner of actions for the conservation, sustainable use, management and restoration of biological diversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels”.

This dialogue aims to identify concrete areas of joint action in developing integrated approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, while increasing production to meet the growing demand for food. We hope that this dialogue will come up with concrete suggestions for the future work of FAO acting as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. But we are hoping for suggestions, for consideration on FAO's Committees on Agriculture,



Forestry and Fisheries. The discussions taking place here will also be conveyed to the CBD.

The dialogue gives us all a great opportunity to take stock of the state of current biodiversity mainstreaming efforts and relevant experiences at different levels and across various sectors. Let me explain how this dialogue will be structured:

Session 1 and 2 will set the scene. Session one is about strengthening synergies between agriculture sectors. Furthermore, session two is about biodiversity mainstreaming in practice. High-level experts will take stock and also provide concrete experiences with biodiversity mainstreaming. We will have a full day on this dialogue, fostering an in-depth discussion and providing a chance for the participants to give inputs and ideas.

Sessions 3 and 4 form the core of the dialogue as they will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss key aspects of biodiversity mainstreaming in working groups: Mainstreaming through global governance; Mainstreaming through national policies and legislation; Mainstreaming through incentives and investment; and Biodiversity mainstreaming along supply chains. Each of the working groups will start with short keynote

statements by various stakeholders and report back to the plenary session through their Chairs.

This dialogue will allow an open and frank exchange of views and experiences. We invite you to think outside the box and outside your comfort zone. We also invite you to take a longer term perspective: Where do you want biodiversity to be in 2030? Which steps need to be taken to reach there? By you personally, your organization, your country, and the international community?

You are not expected to make any commitments at the end of this meeting. Please use this opportunity to share relevant experiences and express your views. The outcome of this dialogue will be summarized in a report that will include brief summaries of the expert presentations and high-level statements as well as the reports of the Co-Chairs of the Working Groups.

FAO and CBD, as co-organizers, are happy to facilitate these discussions and to have you all with us today. We count on your experience, on your ideas, to see how we can move this agenda forward. I thank you again for joining us at this important dialogue and I wish you fruitful discussions.

# Appendix 4

## Report of Working Groups

### Working Group I: Biodiversity mainstreaming through global governance

Co-chairs: H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran, Islamic Republic of) and H.E. Martha Bárcena Coqui (Mexico)

#### Role of FAO as a Platform

- Not to create a new secretariat but to act as a convener of multi-stakeholder dialogues ensuring space for informal interactions.
- FAO to act as a mobilizer within its global, regional and national networks, and bring people together.

#### Biodiversity strategy

FAO to develop a strategy for biodiversity with two domains: internal mainstreaming in FAO across departments and sectors and external, together with other organizations.

- Timing: need to have a strategy ready by Beijing 2020.
- Co-development: engaging with and building upon other initiatives.
- The strategy should take into account:
  - biodiversity and agro-biodiversity;
  - cross-sectoral to leverage links across sectors;
  - sectoral to ensure enough space for specificity that will enhance action;
  - agroecology, GIAHS and innovations to support family farmers;
  - importance of soils, water and pollination;
  - geographic so that national and regional priorities are leveraged.

#### Metrics for monitoring and evaluation

The need to develop adequate and consistent metrics for biodiversity mainstreaming.

The following three elements were discussed as important aspects to measure:

- impacts of sectors on biodiversity;
- progress on actions;
- results from actions

#### Legal framework

There is no need for new legal frameworks but a need to review existing frameworks, strengthen their mutual supportiveness and avoid contradictions.

#### Research for development/financing

- Need to guide priority-setting for research that is relevant to small-scale producers, particularly in developing countries.
- Biodiversity mainstreaming could also aim to sensitize scientists and policy-makers to the importance of integrating knowledge and needs of smallholders across research and policy agendas.
- The imbalance in the geographic distribution of biodiversity research funding was stressed.

The working group considered indigenous knowledge important for biodiversity conservation and participants highlighted the need to facilitate data and information sharing, including on genetic sequences.

---

### Working Group II: Biodiversity mainstreaming through national policies and legislation

Chair: H.E. Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte (Brazil)

Working group 2 proposes that the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform, which has been welcomed by the FAO Conference, should function as a vehicle

to mainstream biodiversity to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, at multiple levels and on specific thematic areas to promote:

### Dialogue

- Provide an informal and needs-based platform for multi-stakeholder<sup>10</sup> and cross-sectoral dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experiences among countries at all levels, particularly between agriculture and environment sectors, on mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture sectors<sup>11</sup> with a focus on processes, policies and legislation, including research, implementation and impact.
- Promote awareness of the importance of biodiversity for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as human well-being and nutrition, and the impact of those sectors on biodiversity, including the sustainable use of biodiversity and related cultural heritage in territories.
- Strengthen the partnership between FAO, UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.
- Create a shared understanding of the scope and meaning of “biodiversity mainstreaming” with a focus on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all sectors, including the soil.

### Knowledge exchange

- Develop or make use of existing repositories of effective, practical and replicable approaches, including policies and legislation, and their associated processes, for mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture sectors working with relevant partners such as OECD, and building on existing initiatives, for instance databases managed by FAO, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UN Environment (UNEP) such as ECOLEX and FAO-managed FAOLEX.
- Share information on existing indicators for mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture sectors, and address any gaps in indicators and data in cooperation with the FAO technical committees.
- Share information on existing biodiversity-friendly practices and tools, including valuation tools (e.g. organic production, biological control, composting).
- Strengthen FAO’s involvement in the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in particular for the thematic assessment on

sustainable use and the global assessment.

- Promote sharing of data on biodiversity relevant natural resources, such as fish stocks.

### Mainstream biodiversity in FAO

- Improve mainstreaming biodiversity in FAO’s work, through cooperation among relevant departments and technical committees (on agriculture, forestry and fisheries), the FAO Conference, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- Consider developing a strategy on biodiversity for FAO.
- Promote contributing to and “ownership” of the Aichi Targets and post-2020 global biodiversity framework by FAO governing bodies.
- Develop a framework for biodiversity and agriculture, including specific goals, to structure and strengthen the dialogue between the environmental and agriculture sectors.

### Facilitate implementation

- Support countries in the implementation of mainstreaming policies, including through participatory multi-stakeholder processes, and monitoring their implementation and impact with both qualitative and quantitative indicators.
- Develop tools to promote biodiversity mainstreaming by food producers and the private sector.
- Support implementation of CBD outcomes at the national level.
- Support capacity enhancement on integrated and sustainable agriculture approaches, such as agroecology and agroforestry, for producers and extension service professionals, promote exchanges among researchers, farmers and local communities and promote the use of traditional knowledge.
- Promote multi-country projects to develop promising and innovative approaches, such as integrating biodiversity for enhanced nutrition, including school meals programmes and integrating biodiversity into markets and value chains.
- Ensure links between the international and national level activities of the Platform, for example through organizing national workshops on mainstreaming biodiversity.

---

<sup>10</sup> Multi-stakeholder processes allow the active participation of governments, producers including farmers, fishermen, indigenous people and forest dwellers, the private sector, consumers, civil society, organizations and research institutions.

<sup>11</sup> FAO understands “agriculture” as crop and livestock production, fisheries and aquaculture and forestry.

- Promote sharing of information at regional level on biodiversity-relevant natural resources, such as soil biota and fish stocks.
- Promote development of national platforms on agriculture and biodiversity and encourage coordination between FAO and CBD focal points.

### **Support CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework process**

- Use internal FAO processes to further encourage implementation of elements relevant to agriculture to achieve the Aichi targets and support the involvement of agriculture-related ministries and organizations in CBD reporting processes (national

- reports and in particular the sixth national report
- Contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, including baseline data and information for potential targets and commitments, indicators, capacity needs, resource needs and resource mobilization, and communication and outreach needs for the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Contribute to the renewal of the CBD's programme of work on agriculture to reflect emerging issues related to mainstreaming biodiversity.
- Encourage FAO member states to consider voluntary national commitments and contributions to biodiversity for food and nutrition.

---

## **Working Group III: Biodiversity mainstreaming through incentives and investment**

**Co-chairs: H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland) and H.E. Godfrey C. Magwenzi (Zimbabwe)**

### **Incentives, investment and voluntary certification schemes**

- If there is a clear value of new farming practices that support biodiversity, farmers will adopt it (and learn from their peers). Where there is not a clear value from proposed new practices, farmers will require support during the “transition period”.
- FAO can assist with additional research and assessment in developing a robust stocktaking of investment strategies and incentive mechanisms.
- Policies that do not favour biodiversity must be adjusted – uniformity in cropping has reduced biodiversity that would otherwise exist if there is a healthy mix of crops. The current regulation promotes uniformity, so that needs to be addressed. However, there are additional barriers to bringing about that change. Cropping decisions are based on consumers’ preferences, who prefer uniformity. Processing units are also more geared towards it. Greater awareness of these impacts, along the value chain, will also inform consumers and they have great power to influence the market – the main incentive for most farmers.
- Disincentives for sustainable practices, such as subsidies for fertilizers, need to be better aligned with the goal of sustainability.
- Reliable traceability systems can eventually constitute attractive incentives.
- The private sector has a major interest in sustainable

practices, as this protects the future of their business. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (known as the RAI principles) were mentioned. Principle 5 on “Conserving and Sustainably Managing Natural Resources” already includes biodiversity considerations. FAO can help translate already defined (but technical) principles into tools that can be used by investors, such as the RAI principles.

- Respecting Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples was highlighted as a means to ensure that incentives and investment support biodiversity.
- FAO can also assist with developing biodiversity mainstreaming guidance for investment banks when considering new loans or other innovative financial instruments.
- Incentives for mainstreaming are highly context dependent – there is no one-size-fits-all approach, so it is important to internalize the legal, institutional framework along with the political economy.

### **Knowledge management - new tools and research**

- A review of the economic impact (social, environmental and financial) of various food production models, to assist countries in deciding which of these should be supported through their public investments and support.

- There is a need to develop simple and actionable tools, drawing from what is already available. We must not remain inactive just because we want to “perfect” the methodology. We must start and then refine our methodologies as we go, adapting to the needs of different stakeholders and use proxy indicators such as soil monitoring. FAO can assist with refinement of the metrics of tracking biodiversity friendly investments and incentives in sustainable food and agriculture.
- Establishing who bears the costs for biodiversity mainstreaming is important. A shared approach is preferable, as this helps to “de-risk” private investments.
- One way to effectively engage farmers is through case studies to exchange experiences among them.
- Capacity building on integrating biodiversity concerns and opportunities is needed all along the value chain, from farmers through to bankers.
- There is one-size-fits-all. Approaches to mainstream biodiversity, the incentives needed and investment conditions have to be tailored. Large-scale monoculture systems can improve the way they integrate biodiversity into their production and, given their scale, this contribution can be very significant.
- It is important to clarify who “owns” (or leads) the biodiversity mainstreaming agenda. FAO certainly has a key role to play (and a mandate from CBD COP) – but we also need to clarify the other key stakeholders FAO needs to work with.
- This issue is also important internally within FAO – biodiversity needs to be better integrated and coordinated across its departments. The development of an FAO Biodiversity Strategy could be a way of achieving this. Another would be to lead the development of a global plan of action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture as a follow up to the upcoming report on The State of World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and support countries in the development of their national strategies.
- FAO should effectively use its convening power at national and regional levels to facilitate dialogues on biodiversity mainstreaming. The multi-stakeholder aspect of the Dialogue is critical for success. The Dialogue must be participatory, transparent and credible (honest), deliberately involving stakeholders with opposing points of view.

#### **Partnerships (private sector, NGOs, farmers)**

- Partnerships are key in order to take the specificity of the context into consideration.
- National or regional consultation on biodiversity to have a fair exchange with the competent authorities.
- Active participation of farmers is necessary throughout the design and implementation process of incentive mechanisms for engagement. This will also result in better buy-ins.
- The complexity of the system requires partnering with different stakeholders/partners throughout the value chain, which can provide different expertise to effectively change the food system.
- Working with partners (and especially farmers) can also enable financial institutions or FAO to identify “quick wins” with small changes that can lead to big improvements.

#### **Global governance**

##### **(FAO as intergovernmental forum, instruments, agreements, standards, guidelines)**

- FAO could lead on developing a vision for food systems of the future, and a comprehensive global plan of action on biodiversity mainstreaming.

#### **National policies and legislation**

##### **(FAO support at national and regional levels)**

- FAO can assist by engaging through different local, regional and national authorities and streamlining the work on all these levels.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity in sustainable agriculture requires a systemic approach, therefore FAO can assist with facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration.
- Facilitating partnerships with academic institutions and extension services to exploit the overlap between work areas and leverage on technical expertise.

#### **FAO as technical organization**

- FAO must provide support at all levels, national or regional level (e.g. more direct contact with country offices).
- There is no systematic monitoring system for genetic diversity. There is need to develop one simple and actionable set of indicators and a system to collect this information in a compatible way to paint the global picture of the situation regarding the impact of agricultural investments in biodiversity.

## Working Group IV: Biodiversity mainstreaming along value chains: voluntary certification schemes

Co-chairs: Gunnvor Berge (Norway)  
and Brian Baldwin (International Agri-Food Network)

A certification scheme guarantees that a certain product meets defined qualifications and labelled criteria. The value-chain/certification approach is an important tool for mainstreaming biodiversity and increasing the sustainability of agriculture sectors; it should be holistic and also consider carbon and water footprints of food production. It was pointed out that many certification schemes target exports, and that a majority of practices are still carried out outside of certification schemes. The challenge is to broaden the uptake of good practices through a mix of measures, including certification.

The importance of biodiversity is often underestimated and, when it is being discussed, the discussions typically involve only governments and farmers. Therefore, the participation of the private sector in this Dialogue was enriching and much welcomed. It was recommended that the Platform should facilitate dialogue, trust and transparency among all stakeholders with influence on biodiversity. While doing this, the Platform would foster systematic policy change and inclusive value chains.

There is no one best approach for defining standards – they can be bottom-up or top-down – or who should control standard setting. Different countries have different needs, and one-size-fits-all approaches do not work.

The value of a certification scheme lies in its merit – does it lead to better biodiversity outcomes or contribute to biodiversity loss. The evidence is weak on the value of certification to actually promote sustainable production and food systems.

While the forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors have well-developed and global certification schemes, the situation is different in the crop sector. In this sector, a plethora of crop-specific voluntary certification schemes operate at different scales (local to global), and many standards lack clarity concerning biodiversity, including concrete

indicators that allow for monitoring and auditing (in the case of third party auditing).

The Platform could conduct an inventory of existing certification schemes in different agriculture sectors. FAO could also help in assessing various options or principles for setting minimum criteria or standards regarding biodiversity, especially in food production systems. FAO should also develop criteria and promote tools for better data collection to measure impact and performance. It was pointed out that economic and social aspects should be included when doing this.

Certification schemes are often costly for smallholders, so these should be more transparent and accessible for them. Some developing countries are concerned that voluntary certification schemes may create barriers for trade but, on the other hand, they are also interested in seeking opportunities to promote trade of agricultural products through certification. Consumer demand for certified products will further increase.

Several voluntary certification schemes and their standards are more advanced with regard to biodiversity, as compared with present-day public policies. National legislation and/or regulations should set minimum requirements. For voluntary certification schemes to add value, they need to raise standards above national requirements. There is a need to create or strengthen policies that enable biodiversity mainstreaming, including land tenure and women's inclusion.

For certification to work, it relies on other measures and factors, such as policies, regulation and enforcement, consumer demand, traceability of products and credibility of the scheme. The public sector can use certification for public procurement programmes (e.g. school meals), which in turn support implementation of biodiversity-friendly policies.

As the Platform, FAO could strengthen the capacity of countries for multi-stakeholder processes and the development of regulatory frameworks in this regard, and possibly organize regional consultations. FAO could also promote national dialogue and provide technical support for developing minimum standards. FAO should also support communication and capacity development. Sharing information should be another task undertaken by the Platform.

Farmers need to make a living from producing food while conserving biodiversity and, therefore, access to markets was seen as critical. The market for certified products with health attributes or complying with environmental and social standards will increase. This provides opportunities for farmers to combine income generation with biodiversity-friendly production.

Standard-setting is a process that seeks to balance ecological, economic and social aspects through

compromises. There are different compliance mechanisms. Participatory certification schemes are being tested in various parts of the world under different contexts. Focusing on short value chains and trust between producers and consumers, they enable small farmer cooperation and entry into local markets and foster their biodiversity mainstreaming. However, they may face difficulties in scaling up. Third-part auditing is an important mechanism for creating trust in voluntary certification schemes at large-scale and long value chains.

It was suggested that further work of the Platform should involve research-for-development organizations and other stakeholders. Consumers and suppliers are interested in and committed to conserving biodiversity and are already participating in voluntary certification schemes or requesting the supply of certified products.

# Appendix 5

## High Level Segment: Joint Report of the Co-chairs of the Working Groups

Full session available (in video) at: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4749/icode/>

### Martha Bárcena Coqui

#### Ambassador of Mexico and Permanent Representative to FAO

I have the great honour to present to you a summary of suggestions identified during the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, Rome, 29–31 May 2018. Let me first remind you of the decision from the last FAO Conference in July, which welcomed FAO's initiative to act as the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform, and requested FAO to facilitate, in collaboration with its partners, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other UN organizations, the integration of actions for the conservation, sustainable use, management and restoration of biological diversity across agriculture sectors at all levels. Agriculture sectors are the biggest users of biodiversity and depend on the ecosystem services it provides. In order to deal with current and future challenges, these sectors need to improve their productivity, sustainability and resilience by

making better use of biodiversity, and contribute to its conservation by reducing the negative impacts of their practices.

The Dialogue brought together a range of views on what the Platform should be and do. First it should be complementary, with no duplication of other initiatives. Second, it should capitalize on FAO's role as a neutral forum for policy dialogue, its convening and facilitation power at different levels, and its technical support and knowledge management functions.

The Dialogue emphasized that the Platform should explore a systemic approach with the Rio Conventions, reinforce synergies and use the Sustainable Development Goals to develop links



and join implementation goals. This will require a transformational change in and an integrated vision for agriculture and food systems. It is expected that outcomes of this Dialogue will be one of the highlights of the CBD COP14 in Egypt, underpinning the mandate of the Cancun Declaration. Hope was expressed that the CBD COP 15 in China would become the “Paris of biodiversity”, stressing the links between biodiversity loss and climate change and the risks associated with inaction.

In response to the fruitful discussions held during the Dialogue, FAO will carefully consider specific actions with regard to biodiversity mainstreaming.

Three cross-cutting issues that ran across the debates in the four working groups were: (i) the absolute need to prepare, at the latest by 2020 and in collaboration with partners and relevant stakeholders, a Biodiversity Strategy setting out future activities; (ii) the catalytic role of knowledge management; and (iii) the importance of metrics.

Knowledge management was stressed as a critical driver of change. The Platform was asked to facilitate information sharing, including case studies and communities of practice on valuation, policies and legislation, and to promote learning among farmers, stakeholders and decision-makers, recognizing the value of local and indigenous knowledge in using and preserving biodiversity.

Another area where support was requested was on data collection and the development of metrics and indicators to measure impact and performance of management practices on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels, involving research and other stakeholders, such as consumers and suppliers.

The suggestions fall in the following clusters:

### 1. Global governance

- The Biodiversity Strategy, in support of mainstreaming biodiversity across agriculture sectors, would be reviewed by the Technical Committees, the Regional Conferences and the Conference; and serve to improve mainstreaming biodiversity across FAO’s departments and work.

- Provide through the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform a neutral forum for governments, communities and other stakeholders along the food chain to build bridges between sectors, identify synergies, align goals and develop integrated cross-sectoral approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral dialogues at regional and national level with a view to identifying gaps and opportunities with a focus on processes, policies and legislation, including research, implementation and impact.
- Lead in developing a vision for sustainable food systems of the future, and a comprehensive global plan of action on biodiversity mainstreaming in food and agriculture systems.
- Strengthen coordination of work with other relevant international forums and instruments, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Contribute to the CBD’s post-2020 global biodiversity framework towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, including baseline data and information for potential targets and commitments.

### 2. National policies and legislation

- Assist countries in raising awareness of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their essential role for human well-being and food and nutrition security.
- Monitor national and regional policy initiatives, governance mechanisms and regulatory approaches that effectively mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within and across agriculture sectors; providing best practices and successful models.
- Develop new, update or complement existing instruments (such as codes of practice, guidelines, and standards) with a view to supporting countries in the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity across agriculture sectors more effectively.
- Support countries in the development and implementation of national biodiversity mainstreaming strategies, including policies, voluntary national commitments and regulatory measures.
- Identify and promote approaches and practices that effectively mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within and across agriculture sectors, across landscapes and seascapes

(using experiences with agroecology and GIAHS) with a focus on strengthening research, training and extension services.

### **3. Incentives, investment and voluntary certification schemes**

- Contribute to the improvement of methods for valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services in national accounts, and the removal of disincentives.
- Support countries to review and revise incentive schemes for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in the agriculture sectors.
- Provide a neutral forum for the development of agricultural performance standards that may serve as basis for responsible private investment and voluntary standards.
- Encourage responsible, biodiversity sensitive

investment in agriculture and food systems to reduce biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems.

- Facilitate dialogue, trust and transparency among all stakeholders making use of and impacting on biodiversity, and foster systematic policy change and inclusive value chains.
- Encourage investment in neutral and responsive extension services for producers.
- Conduct an inventory of existing certification schemes in different agriculture sectors and regions.

To conclude, it was recognized that there is a need to develop a long-term vision on how to bring together biodiversity with sustainable food and agriculture to help us move together in our respective work. In this regard, participants called upon FAO to develop its biodiversity strategy.

# Appendix 6

## Statement of High-Level Segment on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors and Closing Remarks (31 May)

Full session available (in video) at: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4749/icode/>

### Remarks by Mr David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Thank you, Maria Helena, we are very encouraged by the discussions here and the excellent report presented just now by Ambassador Bárcena. On behalf of the Executive Secretary, Cristian Pasça Palmer, I would like to thank FAO, and especially Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo, for organizing this event, and to Ambassador Bárcena and the Mexican delegation for their efforts in promoting the outcomes of Cancun. I would also like to recognize our close collaboration with Egypt, in particular Minister Fahmi, in preparing for COP-14.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, nothing is more important for the future of biodiversity than how we manage food systems and the agricultural sectors. This is not only about reducing negative impacts on biodiversity. It is also about using biodiversity in agricultural production, to enhance yields through pollination, to control pests and diseases, to improve soil fertility and of course to use genetic resources to meet present and future challenges. It is also about improving nutrition and the health of our people. We need to see biodiversity less as a victim of change, and more as a solution to our development challenges.

We look forward to the outcomes of the discussions here being taken on to the technical committees and governing bodies of FAO. We look forward also to taking this dialogue to the national level. And to continuing this multi-stakeholder approach involving business, civil society and especially farmers and farmers' organizations, above all women-headed farming households.

This discussion should help us in accelerating implementation of the existing biodiversity targets, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020. We still

have a quarter of the UN Decade for Biodiversity remaining. We must use the outcomes of this meeting to make all efforts to achieve Targets 6 & 7 on sustainable fisheries, agriculture and forestry and Target 13 on genetic resources, among others.

As discussed here, this Platform can also help in shaping the Post 2020 biodiversity framework due to be agreed in Beijing at COP-15 in 2020. At COP-14, Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt, in a few months' time, the outcomes of this dialogue will help us to take stock of progress in implementing the promises of Cancun. COP-14 will adopt the plan for preparing the post 2020 framework. It will also explore the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. Ambassador Bárcena, you mentioned in your report that we need a common vision. In Egypt we will discuss approaches to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity -- living in harmony with nature.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we firmly believe that biodiversity is essential to achieving our common goals, the SDGs: to achieve food security, to address the climate challenges, to combat land degradation, and above all to improve the health of people and the planet. This requires transformational change in food systems and in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries.

I believe that in this meeting we have sown seeds for this transformational change. At the CBD, we look forward to working together with FAO, and with Mexico and Egypt, among others, to take this agenda onwards. Thank you.

## Remarks by Mr Khaled Mohamed Fahmi, Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, Egypt

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues on the podium, all protocols observed, thank you very much for having me and I would like to thank FAO for the invitation and for your hospitality. I have listened very carefully and with interest throughout all of your deliberations during these three days of work, and I would like first to congratulate you for very successful meetings and deliberations. I would like to assure you that this is exactly what we are working on in Egypt and preparing for the COP.

Let me first start by reminding you that, in Cancun, we did address and focus on the issues of mainstreaming biodiversity, agriculture and tourism, and in Egypt we will be tackling more difficult sectors, such as mining, petroleum, infrastructures and health, going a little further into sectors that are not really usually working on this and this is a challenge for all of us. Together, and I am sure of that, we will find a way to address these issues.

Let me start by highlighting two things. We have been addressing biodiversity issues for a long time now and, until now, with all my respect, we have not been able to talk in a language that the business sector understands. Our topic is very scientific and, by the way, I come from academia, I am a professor and I understand this, but we were not able to get our message through the system, through the decision making process, so we need to change our language. I believe we need to work on positive loops and then move to the negative ones. There is only one way that we can achieve success in the first round of negotiation with the business sector: we have to speak their language, based on our knowledge. We have to be able to turn this into a message that can be understood by the public and by business, then we can work on the positive loops and maybe this is what we need to work on and we would like that the COP in Sharm el Sheik becomes different from other COPs, with a slight change in language and on how we address the issue.

Also, we have to create a link between the two Conventions, the one on Climate Change and the one on Biodiversity. If climate change is getting all the focus, join the winners. They are related, you

cannot talk about climate change without talking about biodiversity. We will be having the Climate Change COP in Poland just few weeks later: we should link the two so that we can go and put this on the table in Poland, whether it is under the aspect of adaptation, or related to mitigation. I have not mentioned the third neglected Convention, the Desertification Convention. We all know why this is neglected: you get the feeling that it is dying. I don't know if I am the only one who has this feeling, but there is no interest. If Desertification is linked with adaptation and with Biodiversity, then we get the three Conventions together and this is what it was all about in Rio 1992. I am old enough, I have seen in Rio, I was there, these are the two issues that we approved and that will be "the Egyptian approach" to COP14, and that is what we agreed on in Cancun, when we were presenting our approach if we were to get the honour of hosting the COP14.

As concerns the preparation for COP14, it is going well. We are erecting a new building for you in Sharm el Sheikh, it is going to be a little costly but it is worth it. So, we are working hard, we are trying to get the blessing of Mr Cooper. It is hard, it is tough, it is taking half of my time, but it will be an honour and a privilege to have you with us in Sharm el Sheikh. We are doing our best to organize this event and we have a great organizing committee, which is working with 20 ministries and more are now becoming involved, and we are going to do our best so that you will have all the facilities that you need to work hard. I must remind you that the Governorate of South Sinai, where Sharm el Sheikh is, has over 50% of land as protected areas, so you will have a unique chance to visit these areas and to see our biodiversity.

If I might move out as a Minister of Environment addressing biodiversity issues, we have moved as all countries. Going back to 15-20 years ago there was always this mandate issue between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment and biodiversity issues, but we can see that there is a change in trend on a global scale, that the two ministries are now working better together, as we gain experience and know the relations better. The two ministries have, in our case, been working

together; we have even drafted a law for biosafety together, and I asked the Minister of Agriculture to present it to the Cabinet and to the Parliament, which happened, and it is now in the Parliament and will be approved soon. There are two other legislations that we are passing now in Egypt, one on the EPS that is now in the Parliament and a third one, the new law on protected areas, that enables to get local communities on board in the economic use of protected areas. Therefore, for the first time in Egypt, there will be economic organization for the protection and management of protected areas, within environmental regulation. These are the 3 major pillars in the new institutional setup for biodiversity and protected areas and, at the same time, Egypt has finished its 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and we were able to mainstream all the environmental issues, especially biodiversity and protected areas in the sectorial programme of energy and electricity, transportation, industry.

We have managed to integrate the environmental dimension, and this is one thing we did in Egypt about which we would like to share our experience, as we had been struggling with this concept for 20 years, and myself as a consultant had developed three Environmental National Action Plans that never saw light because they were just not part of

the National Economic Development. So what we did this time when I became a Minister was: I agreed with the Minister of Planning that he would take over preparation of the Sustainable Development Strategy. Of course he will need my assistance, so I will be there with my team, but he is now the one in control of the investment. Hence, every Minister will have to add the environmental dimension to get the investment approved and so during the follow up it becomes a normal mechanism to report on the environmental issues. This is a way of doing things we are very successful at now, and the Minister of Planning is going everywhere speaking about the environment.

But again, it is all about policies. How can you formulate your environmental problems and issues into policies that could be applicable? If we speak only of environment is not going to work. I am an environmental economist by education and I learned this a long time ago, but really, without good policies and without taking the advantage and integrating this into economic policy “how they relate to environment? What is the impact on the environment?”, otherwise is not going to work.

Thank you very much, I am looking forward to seeing you all in Sharm el Sheikh!

---

### Remarks by Mr Vo Tuan Nhan, Vice Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam

Good Morning! I would like to thank FAO for inviting us to this meeting, which is a very special event for us to prepare and discuss about biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors, specially having in mind COP 14 next November.

Ms Maria Helena Semedo, distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman, Vietnam, due to its richness in biodiversity, has been acknowledged as an important actor for global biodiversity conservation. Biodiversity plays a very relevant socio-economic role in Vietnam. It has also a vital role in providing ecosystem services, contributing to the national economy, ensuring food security, and maintaining livestock and plant stocks.

Vietnam is a member of several multi-lateral agreements, such as the UNFCCC and UNCCD, and became a partner of CBD in 1994. The Government of Vietnam made substantial investments, applying both human and financial resources, to implement and fulfil its commitments and obligations under the Convention.

The country has developed legislation for biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning. Furthermore, the Prime Minister has approved the Decision on the National Biodiversity Strategy. The legal document clearly identifies the main direction and programme for biodiversity conservation and investment, providing orientation

for biodiversity-related actions. Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation were included in the national plan, in the programmes and in policies. Many sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries have begun to include biodiversity conservation as one of their shared development goals.

Ladies and gentleman, biodiversity mainstreaming needs to be conducted by the government to find harmony between biodiversity and development. Collaboration is needed and further support to sustainable development will be crucial to achieving this. Thank you very much!

---

### Remarks by Mr Abdeladim Lhafi, High Commissioner for Water and Forests and Fight against Desertification, Morocco

I would like to thank the FAO and the Convention on Biodiversity for having organized this meeting, creating a link between biodiversity and sustainable development models. I would like to try to add something to what was said about the link between the three conventions from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and I would like to do an overall national and local reflection. But I would also like to take a universal view because the question that we are examining today regarding everything that has taken place since the Stockholm and Rio Summits, including of course the concept of sustainable development which allows to make a link between these three components, is how can we have growth without damaging natural ecosystem, keeping in mind the third component, the social aspect.

I feel that the issue of the approach is extremely important because we have seen that there are these three conventions, biodiversity, climate change and the fight against desertification, that regardless of efforts made by various players, the meetings that have followed the Rio Summit have shown that the real urgent problems remain, loss of biodiversity has continued, degradation of soil with resulting loss of productivity, and also related to security, sustainability and climate change. In 2002, 10 years after Rio, at the Sustainable Development Summit this was pointed out and of course it was understood that a new approach was needed, so I would like to share some thoughts that I think are important.

First of all, we are looking at a key challenge, that of managing the complexity and the global nature of these issues, because we are living in a world where we have never produced so much knowledge,

so much scientific and technical information and yet, we have never foreseen so much damage to the environment as a whole. Of course, degradation began a long time ago: a hundred thousand years ago, which is not yesterday, there were six species of hominids, today there is only one, Homo sapiens, us. And yet we continue to damage the environment in an extremely worrying manner. I think that the central challenge comes from the fact that we have tried to break down this complexity, we have tried to simplify, we have tried to have a linear vision on each issue: what is key here is a global and complex approach, which also involves other criteria because mathematically it is a very chaotic complex system and there is a real temptation to create concrete models and perhaps as a result leave out aspects that may seem unimportant but are in fact essential for ecosystems. This is why I feel that one of the major challenges is to try to link everything that has been done so far so that we can have an approach to manage this global issue which is biodiversity. I cannot talk about biodiversity without talking about climate change, just like you cannot talk about desertification without talking about climate change. So the three big Rio Conventions are intimately linked and it is necessary to examine and apply them at the same time.

So I will try to move from the global concept towards a more operational view, because sometimes it is easier to conceptualize, but when we look at the management of real spaces, when we move towards the operational aspects, there are a number of concrete problems that need to be resolved. After 1992 in Morocco, through a colloquium that was held in 1996, we came up with the main plans

responding to the issues raised in 1992 at the Earth Summit. So that was when we developed our National Reforestation Plan, which aims to restore forested areas, the National Watershed Plan, extremely important particularly in the context of climate change; extreme water events like erosion and the loss of soils will have to be addressed more efficiently, we have built dams, and there is also the Masterplan for Protected Areas which is in the Biodiversity Convention, and other plans like the plan to fight against forest fires which is a huge problem particularly in the Mediterranean basin. We know that there are more than 50 000 forest fires in the Mediterranean basin per year with losses of over 700000 hectares so this is a huge issue which will become even more important given the predictions of future climate change. So we realised we need to change our approach and move toward three essential areas in the operational aspects of this Convention.

The first is a fundamental point: a territorial approach. We feel that the territorial units are essential. We carried out work to develop indicators. When we talk about sustainable development we need indicators to know if we are really moving towards sustainable development or not. So for this approach we have about 50 natural ecosystems, all of them are different, and we needed indicators specific to each one so that we could act on three levels: first, creating public policies; second, assessing these policies as they were put in place so we could have feedback and adjust, the dynamics of ecosystems is incredibly complex and we need to be constantly responding to that creating indicators to evaluate the success of these programmes and policies.

So this is a programme which has a number of different aspects, including awareness raising about desertification, the vulnerability of soils including a number of different parameters such as livestock

density. We have a number of maps, based on our 8 ecoregions that we have classified. Susceptibility to desertification was one thing that we examined because we know that there is structural desertification where there is soil dryness which leads to desertification. We know that at global level this is a very important issue since one of the SDGs for the Agenda 2030 mentions desertification and aims for restoration of 12 million hectares per year just to achieve neutrality of desertification, that neutrality would allow us to maintain the status quo, to keep things from getting worse.

The third important aspect we had is management of risks and adaptation. It is clear that there are a number of important elements included here. We need to have tools so that we can fight against climate change because regardless of the measures that we might take now, this degradation will continue in 2050, if we want carbon neutrality we need to work now, particularly when it comes to managing and working on this. Ecological timescales are much longer than economic or electoral timescales, and we need to include all of these elements so that we can move towards a balance where we are not prioritizing today's needs to the detriment of ecosystems in the future. I would like to draw your attention to the need for linking these 3 Conventions and also to have a territorial approach so that we can examine the situation globally because mainstreaming requires association of things and sectoral plans for integration. We have a global reflection on all these territories so that we can create operational plans and work on an integrated lasting framework with the agriculture and forestry systems and all of the water resources and biodiversity in general. Thank you very much!

**Remarks by Mr Tomasz Chruszczow,  
COP24 Special Envoy for Climate Change – High Level Climate Champion,  
Ministry of Environment, Poland**

Distinguished Colleagues, I think it is a very important conclusion of the work yesterday and the day before that, in fact, everybody here is speaking about the need to bring the Rio Conventions together. To see the synergy between the Climate Change Convention, Biological Diversity Convention and also the Convention to Combat Desertification. These three Rio Conventions are all about the same. They are about restoring the balance between various components of what we call our climate system, what we call our environment. The tool that the Climate Change Convention created back in 2015 in Paris, the Paris Agreement, is probably the most global, most comprehensive and most far reaching environmental agreement so far. It is very clearly recognizing the importance of addressing the vulnerabilities of all countries, including those of food production systems. It is very clear about establishing a fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger. And also recognizing the importance of conservation. Conservation of bio systems which will serve as the sinks and reservoirs for greenhouse gasses.

This is, of course, about forests. This is, of course, about soils. This is about all those components of the surrounding world that are natural stocks for atmospheric carbon. Carbon that belongs to timber, to the woods and to soils. Because carbon in soil means an improvement of soil quality. It means an improvement of the biodiversity within the soil. It means more fertile fields and better crops, better yields. The Paris Agreement also made very clear that the ecosystem needs to be seen in an integrated manner. And it clearly mentions, referring to the Climate Change Convention, that there are those components that we are now discussing, the oceans, and the hydrosphere – which by the way is polluted with plastics now and we have to do something about it.

The soil, the geosphere that must be protected and must be prepared to rise to the challenge of very soon having ten billion people. It is about having food security for these ten billion. The biosphere, thanks to its diversity, serves not only as the “lungs

of the planet”, but is also the habitat of the people and countless species. Animals, plants.

And of course the atmosphere. Well, it is better not to imagine what would have happened if this atmosphere was not as good quality as it should be. We have examples from all over the world where the quality of air makes people die. It is not just better or a little bit worse quality of life, it is an issue of life and death.

So we have all these four components: the biosphere, the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere. And the synergy of actions on all four is the precondition for the success of any implementation of any of the three Rio Conventions and any of these Conventions’ protocols.

Many mentioned the role of the private sector, well, the Paris Agreement mentions non-party stakeholders and the private sector is of course included in this wider list. And, implementation of the Agreement, achievement of the goals, of the overall objectives of the Agreement, would not be possible without the participation of non-party stakeholders. And the Climate Policy, and I believe this would be applicable to any policy related to environmental protection, can only be successful if it takes fully into account the social and human, as well as the economic dimension of any action. What we now have to do, and this is our biggest challenge, is the transition from where we are now to the future that the Paris Agreement calls climate neutral. The future where the emissions that are unavoidable would be balanced by the capacity of the global bio-system to absorb the atmospheric carbon. And this is the vision of climate neutral future, the vision of Paris Agreement that is within reach. And it is within reach by mid-century.

I strongly believe that some technologies that are needed already exist, others will be developed. But what we need now is integrated action to restore biodiversity, to improve soil quality, to make it as rich as possible, and as fertile as possible, to stop desertification, which is being driven by

climate change, but also drives change at local level. So, in other words, we need everybody on board. The Governments will give political signals and legal frameworks. But local communities, cities, businesses, everybody has to get ready for sustaining not only demographic pressures but also more severe impacts of extreme weather. So, we need also to adapt to climate change to be able to respond to the impacts and reduce its consequences. Also, to reduce climate change risks for investors. These would be the elements that are driving the sustainable transition to climate neutrality that we all need. The transition that will also bring decent jobs, new investments.

Distinguished colleagues, we have already mentioned that what we call climate action – these activities of everybody, not Governments, but businesses, cities, academia – this is what does not need any formal approval. This is what some call a Nike approach, “just do it”. You see the problem? Act on it. And I think that this approach could be successfully deployed in every convention and

after listening to my friend Minister Fahmi I can only say that I am sure that the COP 14 in Sharm el-Sheikh will praise this kind of approach. This action is needed everywhere, every day, on every level. It does not matter whether it is global or local. Because the consequences are always affecting people on the ground. And they are not necessarily the consequences that could be solved on global level.

And, one more thing, it is about so-called traditional knowledge. There is a lot of traditional knowledge, traditional historical heritage of living in harmony with nature. This traditional knowledge of indigenous people, their indigenous technologies, and their approach to using the resources that are local and available. They know how to do it in a manner that does not excessively burden the environment. This is something that we should recognize and offer the support of Governments, the support of entire societies.

This is kind the future that we want, isn't it?  
Thank you!

---

### Remarks by Mr Dominique Kohli, Secretary of State, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland

First of all, let me address the first question “What is Switzerland doing in terms of the promotion of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity?” Well, for several decades now, Switzerland has committed greatly to fostering sustainable agriculture in order to respect a certain number of principles. We are very much engaged in that: we have a federal constitution with a charter that includes a specific article requiring the authorities to establish a policy that will enable sustainability. This article of the constitution was supported in a plebiscite of the Swiss people, we have a direct democratic system, which means that our citizens are regularly consulted, and over 70% of our citizens supported this vision of sustainable agriculture policy. On that basis we then developed a number of different tools that made it possible for us to move in the direction of sustainable agriculture. For example, we now have a direct subsidy system, which makes it possible to stimulate and help farmers in their endeavour to develop good agriculture practices

in respect to a certain number of rules that will foster sustainability. In parallel, for those farmers who wish to have access to other tools, there are more specific instruments that allow them to go further, and we have an environmental policy that provides different measures. Monitoring is carried out in a rigorous manner, and it is something we do to measure the progress having been made, and we often thought during this meeting “ Careful, this is not enough!”, as a matter of fact: our monitoring efforts reveal that we have not quite managed to stabilize biodiversity loss but on the contrary the phenomena seems to become more and more complex and serious, indeed the importance of today's meeting and the process undertaken by FAO in order to come to an international consensus and agreement on biodiversity.

I will talk a little bit about a “Paris momentum” for biodiversity. I think Paris was an important rendezvous for climate and for the planet; and

we need to have such momentum for biodiversity. And your question is “How can we prepare this momentum?”. I think there is a need for different preparatory activities, and FAO should play a very important role and our colleagues from Poland and Egypt are saying the same: we should work together to prepare the next meeting and to be able to have this momentum in Beijing. It is a question of mobilization but also of consensus, and maybe there is a lot of things to do from now to have a strong commitment about what does a convention on biodiversity mean. And as discussed yesterday, we need to have a very strong role for FAO to mobilize civil society, the stakeholders, member

states, the private sectors to prepare a convention. What should this convention look like? It should be concrete; it should be ambitious, and measurable. We need to have specific goals and these have to be measured. Another thing for this Paris momentum is an agreement, which should be binding for the rural community on this convention. So these are some ideas to prepare this Paris momentum and maybe from this meeting to 2020 there is a need for other meetings on different continents to prepare this consensus to discuss about what this next convention should be and with that we have the chance for a Beijing momentum. Thank you.

---

**Remarks by Mr Inia Batikoko Seruiratu,  
Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster  
Management and Meteorological Services, Fiji**

Thank you her Excellency, Madame Helena, the Deputy Director General of FAO. I acknowledge the distinguished panellists, with all protocols observed. Your excellencies, ladies and gentleman, a very good morning to you all.

During the opening on Monday I started off by saying that we are in “unchartered territory” and that we need to talk more and we also need work jointly across sectors to preserve biodiversity and to reach a sustainable future. The mainstreaming of biodiversity at national level requires a multi-stakeholder dialogue that facilitates and coordinates action across agricultural sectors so that biodiversity considerations are brought into conventional decision-making frameworks of economic policies, and ultimately support SIDS policymakers’ ability to facilitate a sustainable (agricultural) economy transition.

Let me underline Fiji’s point of view, and of course consistent with other Small Island Developing States as well, on the importance of protecting and mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors. For us this is key for a few underlying reasons. One, is for supporting the productivity of our agricultural sector, and to ensure healthy oceans and, of course, a productive fisheries sector. For encouraging sustainable, biodiversity-friendly

tourism to our Islands. For promoting food security and providing healthy diets to our communities. For increasing the resilience of our vulnerable communities to extreme events and ensuring access to ecosystem services that are necessary for the establishment of healthy diets. And, above all, mainstreaming biodiversity is key to build bridges between the efforts of government and local communities, and other stakeholders, to overcome the vulnerabilities of SIDS by bringing biodiversity considerations into conventional decision-making frameworks across agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.

Excellencies, I hope that you will bear with me. I come from a Small Island State and we have more seas than land. And I will probably focus my intervention this morning on oceans and fisheries. Although we acknowledge the fact that terrestrial activities are important for us, I think that you will understand that for us the oceans are our life, it is our culture and the thing that we cherish is also threatening us in terms of food security, climate-induced disasters, and the list goes on. And so I will probably focus more on fisheries this morning.

The Pacific Ocean, as you all know, is the largest ecosystem in the world. Holding the largest stocks of tuna, rich diversity, stocks of sharks, marine

mammals, turtles and an extensive coral reef system. This richness in biodiversity also reflects the economic potential of this sector for Pacific Island States. Fisheries are of great importance in our region as they provide food security and also livelihood opportunities for local communities. Fishing is a primary or secondary source of income of up to 50% of households in the Pacific Region. At national level it is estimated to contribute about 49% of our total GDP. As you can see, Excellencies, the socio-economic contribution of fisheries in the Pacific Island States is quite significant. And given that local coastal local communities receive about 50 to 90% of their animal source proteins from fish, their food security is also heavily dependent on this sector. However, we are seeing a concerning trend that we have declining coastal fisheries with rising populations, this decline will affect food security and may drive fishermen to more intensive harvesting practices. Rising population also means increased pressure on the mangroves and surrounding coastal vegetation. As we all know, the health and productivity of the fisheries sector is closely connected to the health of the surrounding mangrove and reef ecosystems. And the health of the marine ecosystems and oceans influences fisheries and marine animal stocks and diversity.

Therefore it is vital that economic and strategic links are made between the health of marine ecosystems and the productivity of coastal fisheries. While these connections may already be reflected in numerous environment and biodiversity management policies and plans, the significant contributions from coastal fisheries need stronger recognition, especially at the political level and in national, regional and global policies and strategies of our sectors.

Ladies and gentleman, it is important to mention the escalating global threat that we are all acutely aware of and that is climate change. Mr Chruszczow has already given you some insights into this but let me again remind all of us that science is telling us that our ocean is warming and its chemistry is changing. We are seeing more frequent and extensive coral bleaching episodes in many regions around the world. Fish and marine animals are relocating from their usual habitats to more tolerable environments. This fundamentally disrupts food chains and aquatic ecosystems. It is clear that climate change will

compound the already existing damaging impacts on marine ecosystems, such as the overexploitation of terrestrial and marine resources, increased pollution and waste, and – of course – destructive fishing practices.

However, we know that opportunities are also presented because climate changes and this includes the development of blue carbon initiatives that capitalize on the role of the oceans and their ecosystem services, carbon sinks and reservoirs, allowing the oceans and marine ecosystems to effectively carry out their role in sequestering and storing carbon. They need to be in a healthy state. The oceans can only provide their several ecosystem services, including climate resilience, if they are kept healthy. And this brings us back to the importance of maintaining and conserving the biodiversity of the marine ecosystems. It is necessary for us to have oceans and marine ecosystems in our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to advance climate action in these sectors.

Vulnerable Ocean States should reflect in the NDCs the strong connection that they have with oceans in terms of resilience, including food security. These NDCs should also strongly recognize the relevance of healthy and biodiverse marine ecosystems to robust carbon pools.

Ladies and gentleman, it should be obvious that the oceans connect many sectors and stakeholders and require the involvement of partners and actors to safeguard the valuable and varied services and resources that they do provide. Partnerships are needed between research institutions, government, industries and other private sector organizations. The need for such partnerships can be demonstrated when undertaking a blue carbon initiative. An initiative that can be a vehicle for both biodiversity conservation and food security. In our Small Island States, such an initiative depends on the commitment and cooperation of various actors. Let me just list them before I conclude. It depends on the local coastal communities which utilize marine resources for their food and livelihood. It also depends on agricultural and livestock farmers whose land use practices will affect the marine ecosystems that will be storing blue carbon. The involvement of our communities is very important because involvement

brings commitment. It is not only about the top-down approach, but also the bottom-up approach. People need to take ownership, because when they take ownership, they will also be committed. This is why the involvement of our local communities is so important. It depends on the extension services from the private sector to provide the right guidance to reduce uses that will have an impact on the blue carbon resources. Again, it depends on the local governments, authorities and planners. Also, on those in the private sector who offer attractive and lucrative investments. And, of course, it depends on national governments to ensure that policy, legal and institutional frameworks are in place to support a coordinated approach amongst the various sectors, local governments and private sectors and also that measures are in place to support overall sustainable development, agricultural production and food systems.

Excellencies, we are in changing times in which there are currently several stresses on our ocean

and marine ecosystems and their food sources. We should remind ourselves that the ecosystem services provided by the oceans extend beyond national boundaries and jurisdictions, and therefore ecosystem services are also provided by terrestrial biodiversity of SIDs, despite the limited abundance and fragility of most of them. The global community must therefore come together to respond to the challenges that we now face.

Let me conclude by saying that protecting biodiversity is everyone's business. And, therefore, no single government, country, research institution or any NGO can address these challenges on their own nor can they do so through isolated uncoordinated actions. Partnerships, coordination and joint initiatives must be at the core of how we respond to these challenges. The health, the livelihood and wellbeing of small island communities depend heavily on this. And, of course, the way forward is dialogue. Thank you!

---

**Remarks by Mr Christian F. J. T. Diatta,  
General Secretary, Ministry of the Solidarity-Based Economy and Microfinance, Senegal**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, honorable and distinguished participants, let me thank the Director General of FAO on behalf of Ms Manga, Minister of the Solidarity-Based Economy and Microfinance.

To answer your question I would like to point out that I am not going to review everything that Senegal has done to provide for biodiversity conservation because it is up to the Minister of the Environment to coordinate all related activities.

What I'm going to do is focus on the issue of the promotion of geographical indications (IGs) and its possible impact on biological diversity and agriculture and how by promoting IGs and local products it may be possible to contribute to integrating biodiversity into the agriculture sector. In order to do this allow me to suggest the definition of IGs as intellectual property rights' agreement as indications serving to identify a product as

originating in a territory, region or location and that possesses certain qualities or reputations and characteristics which can be related to the geographical origin. Like labels or trademarks, IGs distinguish between different products thus making things easier for consumers but also for producers to protect the reputation of their products, often built up over the years with great effort. Senegal, being part of the African Intellectual Property Organization is fraught with traditional farm products, the quality of which can be enhanced thanks to the efforts made collectively to promote IGs.

The question of protecting labels and signs to identify the quality of products is a significant challenge for Senegal, not only to protect the potential of natural resources but also to promote a local agriculture system. With our Emerging Senegal Plan (ESP), we hope to facilitate and foster sustainable economic growth with a strong impact on human development. With this the government

has shown its will to promote this trend aimed at an inclusive economic development to the benefit of the whole population, and this of course is also through the promotion of IGs.

How does Senegal plan to contribute to safeguarding and conserving biological diversity? As you may know the Minister of Solidarity based Economy and Microfinance works with cooperatives, producers' organizations and other organizations and in this context we are working on an economic framework law, and right now we are developing two programmes that have almost seen completion. We also have a special programme to promote local products, the main aim of which is to promote the value chain for the horticulture and forestry products of Senegal, on the basis of solidarity and social economy. These are different values from those embraced by the general economy but we also have the family farming project, which is integrated in the context of biodigestors, and again the aim is to promote food self-sufficiency and preservation of the environment through the promotion of family farming integrated with livestock raising and the use of biodigestors. So all this can allow us to increase the price of our products, create local jobs and of course generate benefits in education and health throughout the regions. We hope to offer new opportunities for employment and stabilize human resources in the regions. Talking about the exodus of young people, I believe that through the promotion of local products it may be possible to retain young people on site. Our experience has shown that value chains based on IG products can have positive impacts on the economy and environment while

preserving biological diversity. It also has positive impacts on local job creation and investments, thus improving the revenues of stakeholders in the value chain, especially producers. All of this can allow us to restore mechanisms like traditional practices that are about to disappear because of the exodus of young people, instead passing them on from generation to generation. This is also a factor of social stabilization and it takes into account the special needs of young people and women, who are the true protagonists in value and production chains, and it can promote territorial strategy. It can also provide for environmental conservation and it can fight against the fraudulent use of forests and help us to combat the implementation of bad production practices and allow for the protection of family farms, and we believe that these practices can preserve family farming and contribute to a healthy and balanced diet and the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources.

We hope to promote ownership of IGs in the Senegalese agricultural system, and we believe this will make it possible to build up the capacity of the territory and thus attract entrepreneurs, consumers and tourists.

For all these reasons, we hope to allow Senegal to take advantage of benefits that can issue from the use of IGs and this is why the government of Senegal thought its ministries would like to establish a partnership between Senegal and all the stakeholders. FAO is already a partner and I invite you all to visit Senegal. Thank you.

---

### **Closing remarks by Mr José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General**

It is a real pleasure for me to have this opportunity to make a few closing remarks at the end of this Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across the Agricultural Sectors.

During the last two days, we have heard the voices of more than 250 different people, including ministers, ambassadors, experts, farmers, civil society

representatives, academia and private sector leaders. The rich debates demonstrated the willingness of the different stakeholders to exchange views and experiences and to make a serious attempt to listen to each other. It is amazing to see that we are really entering into a dialogue. I am very pleased that there is widespread agreement with FAO's offer to act as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform.

The conclusion I take is that this initiative is both timely and necessary.

I want to thank all the co-chairs and dialogue participants for their valuable suggestions for the future work of the Platform. I am pleased to see that this dialogue succeeded in identifying concrete areas of joint action and also integrated approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources.

Excellencies, biodiversity mainstreaming across all agricultural sectors is part of a much needed “paradigm shift”. We have to conserve and manage our natural resources in a much more sustainable way. We have to protect the ecosystem functions of biodiversity. Let me list what we believe are the most important: water resources, especially water quality, nutrient cycling, soil, rehabilitation of degraded areas, carbon sequestration, habitat provision for wild species, biological pest control and also preserving pollinators. The agriculture of the future needs to be more resilient and, thus, more diverse and it also needs to ensure healthier and more nutritious diets. It is not enough to produce more food – we need to look at the quality of the food we are producing.

FAO acting as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform will be able to make important contributions to the preservation of biodiversity in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We will raise our voices for a more sustainable agriculture and a healthier food system. FAO will also contribute to the preparation of COP14 to be held at the end of this year in Egypt. As some of you highlighted during this event, we agree that COP15 in Beijing should send a strong signal related to biodiversity, as we got from the Paris Agreement related to climate change.

FAO will continue to consult with you, with other partners and stakeholders for a biodiversity strategy and we will propose concrete future activities based on this consultation. During the last three days many concrete suggestions have been made which FAO will consider carefully. It is also important that we support biodiversity mainstreaming at all levels, in particular at country level, at farm level.

The upcoming UN Decade on Family Farming will provide an important opportunity for mainstreaming biodiversity. We must not forget that family farmers are the foremost custodians of agricultural biodiversity nowadays.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank the co-organizer of this meeting, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). I am sure that the Biodiversity Platform will strengthen our excellent collaboration that we have now. I also want to express my gratitude to Mexico and Switzerland for their support to our work on biodiversity and, more specifically, for the financial support they have provided for the organization of this event. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Maria Helena Semedo and her team for their hard work in preparing this event.

I also thank our interpreters and all our staff and supporters.

To conclude, I thank all of you for your presence, and for those who are not staying in Rome, I wish you a safe flight back home.

Thank you very much.







**Contact person:** Mr Paulo Lourenço Dias Nunes  
**Contact email:** [CB-ADG@fao.org](mailto:CB-ADG@fao.org) and [Biodiversity-Platform@fao.org](mailto:Biodiversity-Platform@fao.org)