

Web Annex 1:

The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and negotiations for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and from COP 26 to COP 27

COP 15: Negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

1. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is expected to finalise negotiations on and adopt a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The GBF will replace the CBD's Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which expired at the end of 2020. The GBF will include a series of global targets, to be achieved by 2030, to reduce threats to biodiversity, promote the sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources. Many of the proposed targets are closely related to FAO's mandate, and the active engagement of the agrifood sectors is critical to the success of the GBF. FAO is participating in the meetings of the CBD's subsidiary bodies and in COP 15 as an observer, providing technical inputs and facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue on biodiversity mainstreaming across the agricultural sectors. FAO is well positioned to support Members in the implementation of the GBF once adopted, including through the Organization's Strategy and Action Plan on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, the newly established Programme Priority Area *Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture*, the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture recently adopted by the Council¹, and as a co-lead of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

2. The first draft of the GBF² included 21 action-oriented targets. Several targets are at the core of FAO's mandate, including, for example: Target 7 on reducing pollution from agriculture and other sources; Targets 9 and 10 on sustainable fisheries, agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry. Other targets are also of special interest to FAO, including on ecosystem restoration (target 2), protected areas (target 3), genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species (target 4), and redirecting or eliminating incentives that are harmful to biodiversity (target 18). The draft monitoring framework for the GBF includes 38 headline indicators³. These include 15 indicators that are an exact match with an Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator and thus for these indicators data would continue to be collected and validated through the SDG process, including six for which FAO is the data provider.

3. The rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress in the development of the GBF. The meeting of the CBD's subsidiary bodies⁴ were finally held virtually in May, June and August 2021. It was agreed to hold these virtually until in-person meetings could be held again. The first part of COP 15 was held virtually in October 2021, with a limited number of delegates physically present in Kunming, China.

4. The meetings of the Convention's subsidiary bodies resumed as in-person meetings in March 2022⁵ to make, in particular, progress on the GBF. While some progress was made on some items, including the monitoring framework of indicators, progress on the goals and targets of the GBF remained slow and the text for negotiation is heavily contested with brackets throughout and numerous alternative suggestions. On the contentious issue of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources, a way forward was accepted, based on further intersessional work to try to resolve the remaining issues.

¹ CL 168/23, *Appendix C*, see also CL 168/REP, *Appendix E*. Resolution 1/168.

² CBD/WG2020/3/3.

³ CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1

⁴ Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA); Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI); Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG 2020).

⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/geneva-2022>

5. Contracting Parties decided to hold another meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) to make more progress on the draft GBF and on DSI prior to the second part of COP 15. The meeting of the WG2020 is scheduled to take place on 21-26 June 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya. Dates for the second part of COP 15 to be held in Kunming, China still have to be confirmed.

From COP 26 to COP 27: Climate change

6. The 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) was held in Glasgow, Scotland, UK on 31 October-13 November 2021. During the Conference, countries agreed on several topics to complete the Paris Rulebook, including issues related to carbon market mechanisms, transparency and loss and damage as well as decisions on Global Goal on Adaptation, Doha Work Programme (youth engagement in climate discussions) and Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

7. Particularly relevant to agrifood systems, is the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and its roadmap (Decisions: 4/CP.23; FCCC/SBI/2018/9 and FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4). At COP 26, Parties analysed the outcomes of the three last workshops of the Koronivia road map and agreed through a joint Subsidiary Body for Scientific and technological Advice-Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBSTA-SBI) Koronivia conclusion⁶ to continue working on agriculture targeting the adoption of a COP 27 Decision for establishing a financing mechanism to support action on the ground. FAO is specifically mentioned in the Conclusion text and is expected to contribute to discussions on the design of the possible mechanism for its implementation beyond COP 27.

8. The next negotiations related to climate change will take place during the 56th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (SB 56) in Bonn, Germany on 6-16 June 2022. Countries and observer organizations will engage in the mandated workshops and negotiations to prepare for the 27th Conference of Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to take place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 7-18 November 2022.

9. FAO as an observer will follow negotiations, particularly on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA), the Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation⁷, carbon market mechanisms (Article 6), and Enhanced Transparency Framework (Article 13). Additionally, FAO will participate in the mandated events and workshops with participation dedicated to the Global Stocktake, Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment⁸ (youth engagement, education and awareness raising in climate discussions, Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, Gender Action Plan and Ocean and Climate Change).

10. Particularly relevant to agrifood systems, is the decision on the KJWA and its roadmap. At the SB 56, countries will have to agree on the elements from the additional inter-sessional workshops on sustainable land and water management and modalities to scale up implementation⁹. Then, at COP 27 countries are expected to report on all progress made related to agriculture and climate change under KJWA since its adoption, propose a conclusion or potentially reach a new decision on implementation.

11. The 56th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-56) adopted parts of the 6th Assessment Report Climate Change 2022: *Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*¹⁰ (28 February 2022) and Climate Change 2022: *Mitigation of Climate Change* (4 April 2022).

⁶ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2021_L01_adv.pdf

⁷ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma3_auv_4ac_Global_Goal.pdf

⁸ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2021_L.18E.pdf

⁹ <https://unfccc.int/documents/309997>

¹⁰ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>

12. The findings of both reports warn that any further delay in global action to slow climate change and adapt to its impacts will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all. The reports also provides further assessments of threats including food safety, melting glaciers, mountain water cycles tropical forests, biodiversity hotspots, oceans, drylands and deserts.