



Seventy-fifth session  
Agenda item 19  
Sustainable development

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 April 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.73](#) and [A/75/L.73/Add.1](#))]

### 75/271. Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Emphasizing* the importance of conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and restoring and maintaining healthy ecosystems for the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* its resolution [75/219](#) of 21 December 2020, entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development”, which calls upon parties to the Convention and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention,

*Recalling also* its resolution [73/284](#) of 1 March 2019, in which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030),

*Recalling further* its resolution [74/227](#) of 19 December 2019, entitled “Sustainable mountain development”, which, inter alia, invites States to strengthen



cooperative action and encourages transboundary cooperation approaches and initiatives among States that share mountain ranges for the sustainable development of mountains, as appropriate,

*Recalling* its resolution [74/135](#) of 18 December 2019, entitled “Rights of indigenous peoples”, and recognizing the important contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

*Recalling also* its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts made by countries to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on protected areas<sup>1</sup> and the contribution made by, inter alia, multisectoral and multilevel approaches,

*Recognizing* the important role of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and welcoming the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be adopted by the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Kunming, China, in 2021, and looking forward to its implementation,

*Taking note* of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the outcomes of its thirteenth meeting, the Strategic Plan 2016–2024 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands) and the Strategic Vision 2021–2030 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, as well as other international initiatives in the field of transboundary cooperation and biodiversity conservation, restoration and protection,

*Welcoming* regional initiatives for range State cooperation, transboundary approaches and outcomes of multi-partner initiatives, conventions and mechanisms at the regional level, such as the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention),<sup>2</sup> Saudi Arabia and Panthera’s Arabian Leopard Initiative, the Strategic Plans for 2016–2024 and 2019–2027 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, the Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform, the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats, the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme, the Central Asian Mammals Initiative, the Central Asian Flyway, the Global Tiger Recovery Programme, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, the Jaguar Plan 2030: Regional Plan for the Conservation of the Largest Feline on the Continent and Its Ecosystems, the 2017 Bishkek Declaration entitled “Caring for snow leopards and mountains: our ecological future”, the Saint Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation of the International Tiger Conservation Forum, held in 2010, and the second International Tiger Conservation Forum, to be held in 2022, and taking note of the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature,

*Recognizing* the importance of supporting policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science, technology and innovation through North-South,

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<sup>1</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1917, No. 32724.

South-South and triangular cooperation in the areas of financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

*Noting* the collaborative efforts of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a multi-stakeholder approach and engaged in the promotion of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in mountain regions, and other biodiversity-related initiatives,

*Noting with concern* the particular vulnerability of ecosystems to adverse impacts of climate change, and reaffirming the importance of conserving and sustainably using biodiversity, restoring and maintaining healthy ecosystems to maintain resilience and address climate change and its adverse impacts as well as to ensure that the benefits that people obtain from healthy and intact ecosystems, which are essential for the three dimensions of sustainable development, continue to be provided,

*Noting with concern also* the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and stressing the urgent need to halt the global decline of biodiversity, which is unprecedented in human history, including its main indirect and direct drivers, in particular changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasion of alien species,

*Welcoming* the initiative of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth meeting to promote a coherent approach between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>4</sup> and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>5</sup> to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation,

*Emphasizing* that biodiversity and health linkages should be addressed holistically, and recalling in this regard decision 14/4 of 30 November 2018 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>6</sup> and resolution 3/4 of 30 January 2018 of the United Nations Environment Assembly,<sup>7</sup>

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and other pandemics underscore the need to conserve, restore and sustainably use biodiversity and the need for concerted enhanced action and transformative change to adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity of living in harmony with nature, stressing that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need to reduce the risk of the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters and future pandemic outbreaks, many of which are exacerbated by biodiversity loss, the increased scale of poaching and the illegal use of and trade in wildlife and wildlife products,

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>6</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document CBD/COP/14/14, sect. I.

<sup>7</sup> [UNEP/EA.3/Res.4](#).

desertification, land degradation and drought and climate change, emphasizing the need to support and invest at all levels, to enhance efforts to build resilience, to reduce the likelihood of zoonotic infections and to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and build back better, and taking note of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which provides a summary of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and highlights that none of the 20 targets has been fully achieved, although six have been partially achieved (targets 9, 11, 16, 17, 19 and 20),

*Recognizing also* the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and reaffirming the need for their full participation at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

1. *Stresses* the need for international and transboundary cooperation at all appropriate levels, as well as between relevant stakeholders, on the enhancement of connectivity between ecosystems and cooperation in order to maintain healthy and intact ecosystems and habitats, which are needed to conserve biodiversity and to ensure that nature can continue to provide ecosystem services to people;

2. *Also stresses* the need to maintain connectivity across ecosystems, which often requires cooperation among range States inhabited by a certain species;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation to avoid the fragmentation of transboundary habitats and to maintain and enhance connectivity between ecosystems, and stresses the importance of the application of environmental impact assessments in line with national legislation, where appropriate;

4. *Welcomes* the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020, at the level of Heads of State and Government, in order to highlight the urgency of action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>8</sup> and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, “Living in harmony with nature”;

5. *Encourages* the use of economic models in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication that are aimed at accelerating inclusive and sustainable economic growth and improving human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental degradation and risks and natural resource scarcities, as a means of contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Encourages* Member States, and invites international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030);

7. *Encourages* Member States and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to emphasize the importance of protecting vulnerable ecosystems and their connectivity, to contribute to the development and adoption of approaches and initiatives for transboundary cooperation, at appropriate levels, for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services, and to participate in such endeavours, as appropriate;

8. *Acknowledges* the importance of the protection of all species in order to ensure the health and intactness of the ecosystems in which they live, and encourages Member States to cooperate in protecting all species and their habitats and in raising awareness of their importance;

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution 70/1.

9. *Encourages* Member States to maintain and enhance connectivity of habitats, including but not limited to those of protected species and those relevant for the provision of ecosystem services, including through increasing the establishment of transboundary protected areas, as appropriate, and ecological corridors based on the best available scientific data, in accordance with international law and national legislation, and to promote initiatives to strengthen the already existing ones and improve their effective management and other effective area-based conservation measures, thereby contributing to the maintenance of their functioning;

10. *Encourages* Member States, and invites international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to integrate and apply ecosystem-based approaches and to include such nature-based solutions in plans and policies, as appropriate for biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction, in order to achieve co-benefits for climate change adaptation and mitigation with biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;

11. *Urges* Member States, and invites international organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders, to increase cooperation at appropriate levels, including transboundary cooperation, collaboration and synergies on biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to provide information to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, as part of his report to be submitted under the sub-item entitled “Convention on Biological Diversity” of the item entitled “Sustainable development”.

*59th plenary meeting  
16 April 2021*