



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 February 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 February 2020 from H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledón, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, and H.E. Ms. Mariangela Zappia, Permanent Representative of Italy, the co-facilitators leading the preparatory process, including on the modalities of the Summit on Biodiversity as per General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/221.

Also, attached is the revised draft of the modalities of the Summit which will be considered at the fourth informal consultation on the aforementioned process on Thursday, 20 February 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 1.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande'.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York



Permanent Mission of Costa Rica
to the United Nations

14 February, 2020

Excellency,

Thank you once again for the constructive engagement of your delegation during the meeting of 7 February 2020, in which we had the opportunity to discuss the revised version of the draft resolution on the modalities of the Summit on Biodiversity.

We have considered all points of view and tried to encompass all the different positions expressed during the last informal consultation.

With reference to the main organizational aspects of the Summit, we have maintained in the text the two options of date on which we received specific indications from DGACM with regards to the expected financial implications. We have also included a new option for the outcome of the Summit and we further refined the proposed titles for the panels of the Leader's Dialogues.

We would like to inform you that the fourth informal consultations will take place on Thursday, February 20th 2020, at 10 a.m. in CR1.

We continue to count on your active participation and support throughout this process and we welcome suggestions and comments to be presented also through the e-mail address: environmentny@un.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Mariangela Zappia
Permanent Representative
of Italy to the United Nations

Rodrigo A. Carazo
Permanent Representative
of Costa Rica to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

REVISED DRAFT

Modalities for the Summit on Biodiversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 74/4 of 15 October 2019, entitled "Political Declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly" and its call on gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

Recalling its resolutions 73/234 of 20 December 2018 and 74/221 of 19 December 2019 and its decision to convene a summit on biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government, within existing resources, before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in 2020, 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 and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, "Living in harmony with nature"; (exact language from OP11 from 74/221 and OP6 of 73/324

1. *Decides* that the Summit on Biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government to be convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on

[*Option 1*: the first day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on the second day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.]

[*Option 2*: the third day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.];

(based on OP1 from A/RES/72/268)

2. *Also decides* that the Summit will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, three Leaders' Dialogues and a brief closing segment and that the overall theme of the Summit will be "Urgent Action On Biodiversity for Sustainable Development"; (based on OP1 & 2 from A/RES/72/268)

3. *Further decides* that:

- (a) The opening segment, to be held from

[Option 1. 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. on the first day of the general debate]

[Option 2. 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. on the third day of the general debate]

will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the President of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the host of the 15th meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Chair of IPBES, as well as an eminent champion on biodiversity and a young leader, one of which should be a representative of indigenous peoples and local communities, both to be selected, in consultation with Member States, by the President of the General Assembly; (based on OP3(a) from A/RES/72/268)

- (b) The plenary segment will start at

[Option 1: 3:45 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. on the first day of the general debate]

[Option 2: 10:45 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. on the third day of the general debate]

and will comprise statements by groups of Member States and Member States and observers of the General Assembly. A list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States; (based on OP3(b) from A/RES/72/268)

- (c) The closing segment, to be held after the conclusion of the Leaders' Dialogues

[Option 1: on the second day of the general debate]

[Option 2: on the third day of the general debate]

will comprise key messages from the Leaders' Dialogues and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly; (based on OP5 from A/RES/72/268)

4. Also decides that the organizational arrangements for the Leaders' Dialogues will be as follows:

- (a) Three consecutive Leaders' Dialogues of 55 minutes each will start at

[Option 1: 10:00 a.m. and will end at 12:45 p.m. of the second day of the general debate]

[Option 2 and 3: 3:00 p.m. and will end at 5:45 p.m.];

- (b) The Leaders' Dialogues will address the following themes:

Dialogue 1: Mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development

Dialogue 2: Harnessing science, technology, innovation and capacity building for biodiversity

Dialogue 3: Sustainable financing and partnerships for biodiversity

- (c) Each Leaders' Dialogue will be presided by two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the Summit, in consultation with the regional groups; (based on OP4(c) from A/RES/72/268)
 - (d) The time limit for statements in the Leaders' Dialogue will be three minutes;
 - (e) The President of the General Assembly may invite the President of ECOSOC, parliamentarians, local governments, representatives of relevant United Nations entities as well as the Secretariats of the Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions, civil society, private sector, including the financial sector, academia, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities to serve as speakers on the Leaders' Dialogues, taking into account gender balance, level of development and geographical representation; (based on OP 4(d) from A/RES/72/268)
5. *[Option (a)]* Decides that the Summit will result in a short and concise, action-oriented call for ambition, agreed by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly; (based on OP6 from A/RES/72/268)
- [Option (b)]* Requests the President of the General Assembly, taking into account 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 and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, to prepare a summary of the Summit reflecting the key messages and commitments made by Member States and stakeholders and to bring the summary to the attention of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, relevant United Nations entities, the Secretariats of the Rio conventions and biodiversity-related conventions and other stakeholders; (based on OP13 from A/RES/73/340)
6. Decides that the Summit and its preparatory process shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Based on OP26 of A/RES/73/292)
7. Invites all observers of the General Assembly to participate at the Summit; (based on OP9 from A/RES/72/268)
8. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council with relevant expertise to register with the Secretariat to attend the Summit; (based on OP11 from A/RES/72/268)

9. *Encourages* participation in the Summit at the highest possible level, and encourages all participants to present concrete commitments¹ to accelerate action on biodiversity for sustainable development; (based on OP8 from A/RES/73/340)
10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the Summit, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable gender and geographical representation and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis²; (based on OP12 from A/RES/72/268)
11. *Invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General and the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, to participate in the Summit, as appropriate, to highlight the need to support a post-2020 global biodiversity frameworks and urges them to consider initiatives in support of the Summit and its preparation, particularly with regard to sharing relevant good practices, challenges and lessons learned; (based on OP10 from A/RES/72/268)
12. *Encourages* Member States and other potential donors to contribute to the United Nations multi-partner trust fund to support the Summit;
13. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national delegations representatives such as parliamentarians, local governments, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, community organizations, faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, youth and the private sector, with due regard to gender balance; (based on OP14 from A/RES/72/268)

¹ Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant stakeholders can refer to the "Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People", which was announced at COP 14, an online multi-stakeholders platform that collects and showcases commitments and contributions across all sectors in support of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.

² The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

14. *Decides* that the proceedings of the Summit shall be webcasted and encourages the President of the General Assembly and all relevant UN entities to give highest visibility to the Summit, including during its preparation through all relevant media platforms and information and communications technologies (based on OP12 from A/RES/73/340)
15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Summit. (based on OP15 from A/RES/72/268)