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**Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Second open-ended meeting: preparations for the
second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**
Nairobi, 29–31 May and 2 June 2023

Costa Rica, Colombia, Singapore, Ecuador, Germany

Biodiverse and Resilient Cities - Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Underlining the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the mandate of UN-Habitat as the focal point in the UN system for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, and the custodian agency for the implementation of SDG 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,

Stressing the relevance of the transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda², especially those related to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, environmental sustainability and resilient urban development, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, restoration and sustainable use, resilience and climate change adaptation and mitigation, to achieve the 2030 Agenda,

Noting UN Secretary General Quadrennial Report on Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda³ which describes actions that cities can undertake to make progress in halting and reversing biodiversity loss locally,

Noting UN-Habitat World Cities Report 2022 entitled *Envisaging the Future of Cities*⁴, which highlights that future economic growth and resilience cannot be sustained without bridging the infrastructure gaps across the urban-rural continuum through adequate territorial planning and enhanced capacities in the human settlements for strengthening the pivotal role they play in realizing sustainable futures,

Welcoming IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, the Working Group II contribution⁵ which integrates knowledge on the interdependence of climate, ecosystems, biodiversity and human societies and documents the impacts of climate change on urban areas,

Welcoming the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019) affirming that biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide at rates unprecedented in human history,

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex

³ General Assembly, document A/76/639-E/2022/10 of 7 March 2022

⁴ https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/06/wcr_2022.pdf

⁵ Available at https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf

~~PP6 [Recognizing that nature-based solutions as defined in the UNEA 5/5 Resolution “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development” offer the opportunity to develop a wide range of responses to environmental, economic and societal challenges in urban planning. In urban areas, nature-based solutions, including green, blue and natural infrastructure, have been associated with delivering multiple benefits including positive effects on climate adaptation and mitigation, urban biodiversity, human health, and wellbeing. Nature-based solutions need to be implemented with comprehensive social and environmental safeguards, consider local and indigenous knowledge, and provide benefits to local communities.] (Chair-based on PP6 alts)~~

~~PP6 alt. Recalling UNEA 5/5 Resolution “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development” (BRA+) which recognizes that nature-based solutions are among the actions that play an essential role in the overall efforts to achieve the SDGs, including by effectively and efficiently addressing major social, economic, and environmental challenges, such as urban development (ARG+)~~

~~PP6 alt. 1 Recognizing that nature-based solutions, as defined in resolution 5/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly that nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits, and recognizes that nature-based solutions support sustainable development[1], offer the opportunity to develop a wide range of responses (EU) (to address (EU+)) environmental, economic, and societal challenges, when implemented with comprehensive social and environmental safeguards, and considering local and indigenous knowledge (CRI+)~~

~~(chair invites BRA, CRI, EU to harmonise PP6 alt, PP6 alt 1)~~

Recalling the importance of ecosystem-based approaches, as agreed upon under the Convention on Biological Diversity, to maintain and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people and the ecosystems they rely upon

Recalling General Assembly resolution 77/167 of 28 December 2022⁶, which encourages relevant organizations to integrate nature-based solution, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches in line with resolution 5/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly⁷, into their strategic planning, as appropriate, across sectors,

PP11 Recalling Resolution 23/17 on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure [adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its 23rd session in 2011], which encourages Governments to promote urban development patterns that reduce urban sprawl and ecological footprint and undertake coordinated action to promote cities and biodiversity as part of their sustainable urban development strategies,

PP14 Recalling also the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum, under the theme Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future,

PP xx bis Recognizing that there is not a “one size fits all approach” and that efforts to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban-territorial planning need to be implemented in a balanced and integrated manner and consider the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to addressing the social and economic conditions of people in vulnerable situations and fostering income-generating professional and employment opportunities for those communities, taking into account the specific challenges faced by developing countries: (BRA+, confirm where to place PP)

PP17 Noting also the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 and the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals,

PP18 [Acknowledging that cities that enable human settlements to recognize, value, prioritize and mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services guidelines into urban-territorial planning maximize human [health and] well-being and foster positive dynamics between nature and people to improve the quality of life.] (ARG proposes merging PP18 and PP19)

PP19 Welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in 2022 that enshrines a target (#12) dedicated to improving the quantity and quality, connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban areas by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

⁶ General Assembly resolution 77/167 of 28 December 2022

⁷ United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5

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and as an instrument that will contribute to objectives that it shares with UN-Habitat and in such areas that fall within the mandate of UN-Habitat as well as the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities, and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, which provides a critical roadmap for achieving multilevel governance for nature, [{ARG proposes merging PP18 and PP19}](#)[{US reserve, will revert once merged, reference to the Goals}](#)

[PP xx bis Also welcoming target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, where Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity committed to mobilize 200 billion US dollars annually, in line with article 20 of the convention, which could contribute to more biodiverse and resilient cities {ARG+, confirm where to place it}](#)

[PP20 \[Placeholder : insertion of preambular para on UN water Conference\]](#)

[Recognizing](#) that there are multiple international processes that can contribute to achieving urban resilience, including but not limited to the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, [the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the plan of action on subnational governments, cities, and other local authorities for biodiversity \(2023-2030\) on the Convention on Biological Diversity.](#) [{CRI+}](#) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in a manner consistent with national priorities and circumstance. These processes further recognize the importance of subnational entities, particularly local governments authorities, in addressing biodiversity loss and building resilience, [\[Previously PP7, ARG proposed moving PP7 so that this is the last PP before OPs\]](#)

1. [OP1 Requests](#) the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to encourage a shift in urbanization that takes into account biodiversity and ecosystem services, to support Member States and members of UN specialized agencies, within the scope of existing resources, by:
 - a) Promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services guidelines into urban and territorial planning and management;
 - b) Promoting alignment at all levels of government on urban policies that are sensitive to all social, economic and ecological contexts;⁸
 - c) Promoting income-generating professional and employment opportunities from the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity for people in vulnerable situations;
2. [OP2 Requests](#) the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, [\[in collaboration with other key UN entities inter alia, UNEP, and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. {CRI+}](#) subject to the availability of resources [and] to further support the implementation of [b][B]iodiverse and [r] [R]esilient [c][C]ities, to initiate the [[elaboration] of [voluntary] {CRI+} international guidelines and principles through] consultations with Member States[, members of the United Nations specialized agencies] and multiple stakeholders in a transparent, inclusive, regionally balanced manner, striving for gender balance [and leaving no one behind], in order to [\[contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by\] {EUN+}](#) undertake/ing the following: [\[USA, ARG reserve\]](#)
- 2-3. [Alt OP2 \[\[Requests the ED \[in collaboration\] \[collaborate\] {USA+} with the CBD, IPBES, and the biodiversity related conventions, to produce a report \[that would inform the development of guidelines\] {Chair} on urban planning that promotes more biodiverse and resilient cities, including by:\] {ARG, BRA, USA+}\] {CRI, COL reserve}](#)
 - a) Compile examples of best available practices that contribute to more biodiverse and resilient cities, based on the best available evidence and science; {ad ref; 14:43}
 - b) Assess and raise awareness of existing criteria, standards and guidelines that effectively promote more biodiverse and resilient cities taking into account the specific challenges faced by developing countries {ad ref, 15:10}

⁸ IPBES global assessment para 39, summary for policy-makers

Bis {Identify the needs of people in vulnerable situation and potential pathways to generate professional and employment opportunities for those communities from the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity within cities}; {ad ref, 15:16}

- b) Compile examples of innovative methodologies for spatial planning and management of cities to contribute to the conservation, preservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity to along a preserve-serve-restore-create spectrum that responds to varying states of natural habitat within and around cities, taking into account different national, regional, and subnational circumstances; {ad ref, 15:18}
- c) Establish an open-ended international expert advisory group on biodiverse and resilient cities, on the basis of regional balance and including the institutions and experts already engaged with the concept of biodiverse and resilient cities, {ad ref, 15:36}

OP Bis Requests the ED to assist with Building capacity subject to the availability of resources through technical assistance and guidance to improve the development and strengthening of skills and abilities in biodiversity management in urban planning, so that countries can improve the processes that enable the transformation of cities into biodiverse and resilient cities. {ad ref, 15:23}

OP Ter [\[Requests the ED, {subject to the availability of resources} {USA+} to assist Identifying options for supporting sustainable investment in biodiverse and resilient cities and sharing information on financial resources from all sources, including \[domestic\] {BRA, ARG reserve}, international, public and private sectors {EUN+} to enable developing countries to develop and deploy actions on \[b\]Biodiverse and \[r\]R\[esilient c\]C\[ities\]: {CRI+},.\] {EUN reserve}](#)

~~3-4.~~ *OP3* Further requests the Executive Director, in consultation with appropriate partners and within available resources, to assist Member States, members of the United Nations specialized agencies upon request, in developing pilot projects and programmes to promote more actions on biodiverse and resilient cities including conservation, restoration and sustainable use measures [{ad ref, 15:57}](#)

~~4-5.~~ *OP4* Requests the Executive Director to articulate the links between Biodiverse and Resilient Cities and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including reporting on the [same]; [{ad ref, 15:58}](#)

~~5-6.~~ *OP5* Requests the Executive Director to submit for [consideration and the possible](#) endorsement of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat, [at its second session of 2024, the International Guidelines on Biodiverse and Resilient Cities, and report to the Third Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly Assembly on the status of the implementation of this resolution;](#) [{ad ref, 16:10}](#)

~~6-7.~~ *OP6* Requests the Executive Director consistent with UN Habitat's resource mobilization strategy to convene a group of financing institutions, including regional institutions, to encourage to support implementation of policies for more biodiverse and resilient cities to financial institutions through contextualized capacity building and aligned solutions. {ad ref, 16:17}

~~8.~~

~~7-9.~~ *OP7* [Encourages Member States to contribute to the implementation of this resolution through increased contributions to the foundation non-earmarked fund or through soft-earmarked or earmarked funding, and also encourages the Executive Director to explore further options to raise funds from all sources to support implementation of this resolution;](#) [{ad ref, 16:24}](#);

