



**Statement by David Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**Closing of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

**Nairobi, 29 May 2024**

*Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.*

That was a tough meeting. And I think, certainly, there have been some frustrations as I started the week with an apology for the lateness of the documents. I apologize also for any shortcomings on our part during the week. I think we have experienced, also, the difficulty that while we have made some progress, we have many, many brackets and some CRPs that we have not addressed at all, as a Body.

Having said that, I think we have made a lot of important progress in a number of important issues that support the implementation and the monitoring of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

I would like to thank all you delegates for your hard work and determination over these last ten days, but also, those of you who were here at SBSTTA before. In particular, I would like to thank the co-chairs of the of the contact groups. Holly Kelley-Weil of the UK and Jesús Guerra Bell of Cuba, Salima Kempnaer of Belgium, and Shonisani Munzhedzi of South Africa. Gillian Guthrie of Jamaica, Carolina Caceres of Canada and Joaquín Salzberg of Argentina.

Of course, special thanks to our Chair, Chirra Achalender Reddy. You faced a very heavy agenda and some very difficult issues, and we have got through that agenda this evening. We have had one of the largest meetings of SBI ever with more than 1000 participants from 143 countries.

I would like to thank also, our hosts here at UNON, colleagues in UNEP and in UNDSS. And of course, I especially would like to thank my team, led by Neil, but really all the team, for their hard work behind the scenes. The registration team, the support staff, the editorial team, the translators, and the report writers and interpreters. Also, a big thanks to our kind and dedicated colleagues who have been caring for us here at the UNON site, catering and cleaning, security, and so on. Thank you. Thank you all.

I gave, of course, special thanks to our team here. And of course, our team will soon have a new Head, a new Executive Secretary. We very much welcome Astrid Schomaker, who is expected to begin her duties in July. It goes without saying that Astrid will have my full support to carry forward the hard work that is entrusted to her, that is entrusted to the Secretariat, as we prepare for COP 16 and beyond.





Let us take a moment to actually celebrate what we have achieved. The decision on the recommendation, the draft decision, that we have on planning, monitoring, reporting and review. It still has some brackets, but it is now clearer where we have to go at COP 16, and it complements the very successful work coming from SBSTTA last week on the Monitoring Framework.

We have developed an important draft decision on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. And I'm very pleased that the Bureau was able to select the 18 organizations around the world that will foster and leverage technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to support action across the countries.

We have had very difficult discussions on resource mobilization, but nonetheless advanced the understanding between the different countries.

Let us also note what has been achieved on the margins of this meeting. We had a memorable celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity. We see increased work around the world to update the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and to develop national targets. Of course, we will have an opportunity at SBI 5 and at COP 16 to review that progress, and we look forward to seeing a strong demonstration of progress in the implementation of The Biodiversity Plan when we get to Cali.

We also heard from China, that China and the UN signed an agreement to formally establish the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, and we look forward to that being operational.

A few days ago, we had some very productive discussions on Article 8(j). Thanks to DRC and Canada and the IIFP for convening those, and the co-chairs of the Working Group on Article 8(j) for facilitating those discussions. I think they have helped us come closer to understanding different perspectives and preparing the ground for a successful adoption of a new Work Programme and strengthened institutional arrangements at COP 16.

A few days before that, we had some very useful updates and consultations on Digital Sequence Information, the development towards the operationalization of a Multilateral Mechanism, as agreed at COP 15. I know that the co-chairs of the negotiations on DSI, Will Lockhart and Mphatso Kalemba, have also been having some very fruitful discussions while they have been here. And we look forward to a successful second meeting of the Working Group shortly in Montreal, and a successful outcome at COP 16.

I would like to very much again, appreciate the efforts of our COP President in guiding us forward over this long period of the Chinese presidency. We have mentioned the establishment of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, and we will hear from the COP President shortly.

And of course, we are very much looking forward to COP 16 in Colombia. We know how hard-working the team in Colombia is, the extensive team that Colombia has brought to SBSTTA and SBI. We've made great steps forward. We signed the Host Government Agreement while we were here, and we look forward to our meeting again shortly in Cali. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

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