

Dear Members of CBD Alliance,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2022, concerning the Informal Group on the post 2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF). We greatly appreciate your interest in, and constructive suggestions for, the successful advancement in the development of the GBF for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the second part of its fifteenth meeting (COP 15.2).

As you will recall, at the conclusion of the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-4), held from 21 to 26 June in Nairobi, we noted that while some progress had been made, it was not significant and hence much remained to be done to develop a text that would facilitate negotiation at COP 15.2. We therefore proposed to hold a fifth and final meeting of the Working Group of up to three days prior to COP 15.2 and to convene a small and regionally balanced informal group to streamline the text of the WG2020-4 outcomes.

Accordingly, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, arrangements have been made to hold the fifth meeting of the Working Group in Montreal from 3 to 5 December 2022. In addition, we have moved ahead to convene a meeting of an informal group, that will be held in-person, in Montreal, from 26 to 30 September 2022. The members of the Informal Group were nominated by us, the Co-chairs, upon advice from the members of the COP Bureau from each of the regions (maximum 5 members from Parties in each region). Overall membership to the Informal Group is regionally balanced and aims to reflect the variety of views expressed during WG2020 meetings.

The meeting of the Informal Group will not be a negotiation, rather members of the Informal Group will provide their expert views and are not expected to represent the position of their country or region. The meeting of the informal group will have the following tasks:

- review the Nairobi Text for coherence, redundancies, consistency, and ease of communication;
- identify potential areas of technical solutions; and, for these,
- provide technical analysis of options for the way forward.

The key outcomes of the meeting of the Informal Group will be presented to Parties and stakeholders through information webinars, and will be made available to participants 6 weeks in advance of WG2020-5 in all UN languages with the hope that it will facilitate negotiations of the GBF. As with all open-ended meetings of the Convention and each of the preceding meetings of the Working Group, WG2020-5 will be open to participation by all Parties, other Governments and observer organizations.

As Co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, we remain committed to enable effective participation of all stakeholders in the process.

We invite all the members of CBD Alliance, to continue to actively participate in and support this Party-led process towards the adoption of an ambitious and achievable post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP 15.2 in December 2022 and look forward to your engagement in the WG2020-5 meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Francis Ogwal and Mr. Basile van Havre

Co-Chairs of the OEWG2020