

Statement by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

UN Headquarters, New York, 20 February – 3 March 2023

Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to take this opportunity to provide a brief update on the outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to inform the deliberations of this important meeting.

Throughout previous sessions of these deliberations, the Secretariat has provided updates on scientific and technical work conducted under the CBD of significant relevance to the application of the ecosystem approach in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. Such work includes, for example, the process to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, and developments under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

In addition to these areas of work of continued relevance to your deliberations, I wish to highlight some of the important outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP 15), which took place in December 2023. At this meeting, the COP adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The framework sets out a pathway to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on the path of recovery, while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, and providing means of implementation, in order to achieve the 2050 Vision whereby people live in harmony with nature. It includes four outcome-oriented goals to be achieved by 2050, 23 action-oriented targets to be achieved by 2030, a monitoring framework for tracking progress towards the goals and targets and several sections providing guidance on the implementation of the framework. Alongside this framework, the CBD COP also