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Documentation of the Work of the General Assembly Second Committee (GA2) NMUN Simulation*



Conference B

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General Assembly Second Committee (GA2)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

- I. The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development
- II. Continued Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
GA2/1/1	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	61-1-5
GA2/1/2	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	50-8-9
GA2/1/3	The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development	65-1-1

Summary Report

The General Assembly Second Committee held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development
- II. Continued Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)

The session was attended by representatives of 67 Member States and no Observers. On Monday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development.”

On Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 6 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including initiatives on energy usage, educational initiatives, mobilizing community efforts, shared databases, and public-private partnerships for development. During both formal and informal debate, the delegates were focused on finding feasible yet ambitious proposals in their thematic sub-groups. Delegates also condemned the use of environmentally aggressive pesticides and agricultural practices, and highlighted the struggles of Least Developed States and Small Island Developing States, who are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. The overall tone of debate in committee was one of collaboration and consensus.

On Wednesday, three draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted three resolutions during voting procedure, all of which were adopted by a recorded vote. The resolutions represented a commendable range of proposals, including creating an internal research group focused on the interaction between the COVID-19 pandemic and ecosystem health, utilizing artificial intelligence to optimize agricultural practices, and encouraging safe ecotourism activity to bring awareness to diverse species.



Code: GA2/1/1

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Reaffirming the importance of the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)* (2015) in its goals of fostering inclusive sustainable development through capacity development, knowledge sharing, and multi-stakeholder collaboration,

Recognizing the efforts of Member States in National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans, and their previous success with the guidance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),

Reaffirming the various needs and goals presented by biological and climate-related differences in the geographic makeup of Member States across the world,

Confident that the implementation of sustainable updated infrastructures, such as drip irrigation and urban greening will prevent further loss of biodiversity in the future by consuming less land, energy, and other resources, as well as benefit economies,

Reiterating the decisions made by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, including the latest National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAP), the updated national Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and decision X/5 regarding implementation from the 2011-2020 period,

Affirming the stated ideals of the CBD including conserving biological diversity, the sustainable use of the different aspects of biodiversity, and the equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources,

Emphasizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12 regarding Responsible Production, SDG 14 regarding Life Below Water, and SDG 15 regarding Life on Land,

Recognizing the importance of uplifting and centering indigenous voices in strategies regarding conservation,

Noting with interest the use of renewable sources of energy including wind, solar, geothermal, and hydropower to aid in achieving the vision of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015),

Affirming the impact of specialized environmental education, and the need for improvements in educational infrastructure throughout developing Member States,

Recognizing the need for Member States to diversify their economies and formulate practices that best support the sustained presence of biodiverse life on land and in water,

Fully aware of each Member State's unique environments in which individualized infrastructures will optimize sustainable production of energy,

Noting with concern the rapid deterioration of biodiversity throughout the world,

Addressing the fact that harmful acts against the environment, such as logging and poaching, are often the consequences of poverty in local communities,

Highlighting the particular struggles of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), many of whom are facing the detrimental effects of climate change at higher rates,

Acknowledging that currently, only 14% of land and 10% of waters are considered protected by the International Union on the Conservation of Nature (IUCN),

Appreciating General Assembly Resolution 75/229 (2020) on “Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection”, stating the importance of the establishment of national policies defining the terms sustainable and eco-friendly tourism,

Expressing satisfaction with strong global partnerships like the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development, and the SDG Fund that supersedes a Member State’s region, and instead focus on Member State’s common needs,

1. *Recommends* Member States work within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish their individualized National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAP) and implement them effectively by:
 - a. Allocating funding for the implementation of NBSAPs in SIDS and LDCs;
 - b. Asserting the importance of centering local and indigenous values in the creation of NBSAPs to implement a bottom-up approach;
 - c. Allowing for equitable sharing of genetic resources and relevant technology;
 - d. Suggesting Member States encourage tax incentives for businesses and corporations that comply with the ideals of the CBD;
2. *Encourages* Member States to engage in a global knowledge and resource sharing initiative through multi-stakeholder partnerships, in collaboration with inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including:
 - a. Sharing expertise, data, and research relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development;
 - b. Expanding upon university-lead research accessible through a multinational database;
 - c. Gathering global best practice data in the United Nations (UN) Biodiversity Lab;
 - d. Distributing technological resources through regional hubs;
 - e. Allocating financial resources to Least Developed Countries to strengthen capacity-building efforts;
 - f. Funding and supporting indigenous community groups for knowledge sharing;
 - g. Collecting data in a non-intrusive manner through voluntary self-reporting;
3. *Recommends* that Member States incorporate existing practices to mainstream biodiversity into national sectoral plans and programs to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by:
 - a. Incorporating non-intrusive data collection that identifies the most prevalent issues of biodiversity in each Member States;
 - b. Initiating welfare social programs designed to help Member States incorporate effective practices towards promoting biodiversity, as programs of this type emulate determinants of biodiversity and individualized well-being;
 - c. Emphasizing the importance of targeting root causes of biodiversity loss in order to promote effective management and conservation efforts;
 - d. Ensuring that all government initiatives towards the conservation of biodiversity are done in a sustainable manner;
 - e. Implementing a database of the sightings of local flora and fauna modeled after Hungary’s Vadonlesó (Wild Watch) Program such that:
 - i. Data is submitted by the general public;
 - ii. Submissions are monitored by local experts;

- iii. The general public is able to access collected data;
- 4. *Requests* the expansion of the existing Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Strategy (CEPA) Framework that will:
 - a. Identify target audiences, key messages, channels of delivery, and activities for the continuous conservation on biodiversity;
 - b. Consist of lobbying, awareness and education, mobilization, and participation by expert groups on biodiversity with the goal of:
 - i. Mainstreaming biodiversity in the development process;
 - ii. Allocating financial and human resources from willing Member States and organizations to address biodiversity concerns;
 - iii. Equipping decision-makers to engage with biodiversity stakeholders;
 - iv. Motivating Member States to various levels of assistance to vulnerable populations that suffer a greater loss of biodiversity;
 - v. Preparing Member States on implementing programs to foster innovation and entrepreneurship within local communities to assist economic growth;
 - c. Inviting the UN Department of Global Communication and the UN Office of Sustainable Development to utilize their existing knowledge sharing technology to include the creation of a standing committee that will assist all Member State facilitation transfers of intellectual property and information;
 - d. Catering towards enhanced support to SIDSs and indigenous people;
- 5. *Invites* Member States to expand on educational workshops targeting today's youth in LDCs and SIDSs, implemented by inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and civil-society organizations by:
 - a. Asking for Member States, the UNDP, and the UNEP to consider providing financial assistance to LDCs and SIDSs;
 - b. Emphasizing attention on rural areas and vulnerable populations;
 - c. Designing educational workshops to fit particular needs of Member States, by including topics such as;
 - i. Awareness about local and global environmental challenges and eco-friendly practices;
 - ii. Real-world skills trainings including:
 - 1. Managing greenhouses;
 - 2. Practicing sustainable agriculture;
 - 3. Learning how to operate environmentally sound technology (EST);
 - 4. Experiential learning opportunities including internships and other in-person activities promoting environmental education;
 - 5. Educational opportunities in glacial preservation;
 - iii. Education regarding sustainable renewable energy sources such as but not limited to:
 - 1. Solar energy collect by installed solar panels, particularly for Sunshine Developed Nations;
 - 2. Use of hydroelectric energy for use of nation with significant bodies of water and waterways;
 - 3. Wind power energy as collected by turbines;
 - 4. The use of nuclear power as a sustainable energy source;
 - d. Supporting the implementation of viable energy and agricultural sources based on availability in a given Member State, by minimizing environmental impacts going forward, and thus limiting threats to biodiversity;
- 6. Recommends Member States, Inter-Governmental Organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations to work in partnership with the international organization Sustainable Energy For All

(SEforALL) and promote the current “Be Bold” campaign established by the SEforALL. The measures for promoting the sustainable energy should be, not limited to:

- a. Encouraging representatives of public and private organizations to participate in The Bold Conversations platform;
 - b. Sending Member States’ delegations and representatives to the Sustainable Energy for All Forum that will take place in May 2022;
 - c. Spreading the information about the intergovernmental and inter-agency energy commitments, such as the Health Facility Electrification Compact and the 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy Compact;
7. *Suggests* Member States to mobilize existing resources to create viable energy and agricultural sources and highly encourage seeking funding from The United Nations, benevolent fellow Member States, Intergovernmental organizations such as International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and non-governmental organizations; Member States may also seek a onetime Global Environmental Facility (GEF) which will come from approved grants promoting biodiversity;
8. *Further requests* that Member States currently relying on less sustainable energy systems to mobilize funds from less sustainable systems into more sustainable systems in an effort to achieve approximately 33% clean energy sources by 2030;
9. *Recommends* that Member States to encourage farmers to implement regenerative agricultural techniques with a goal of achieving 40% regenerative agricultural practices globally by 2030;
10. *Encourages* Member States to support community groups that focus on and utilize indigenous knowledge for conservation and sustainable development by:
- a. Representing indigenous peoples of various communities together as expert groups guiding the work in the UN Biodiversity Lab;
 - b. Adopting an indigenous approach to education that involves contextualizing the school curriculum by integrating indigenous knowledge into formal instruction aimed at integrating character building, intellectual training, manual activities, and physical education;
 - c. Acknowledging that the cultivation of individuals’ responsibilities to their communities becomes a main objective of the teaching and learning process in indigenous education;
 - d. Using indigenous knowledge to inform policies and legislation on sustainable development and biodiversity;
 - e. Supporting efforts of leaders within indigenous communities to promote and implement their practices to ensure ethical farming and fishing within industrial sectors;
11. *Supports* SIDS and LDCs with investing in green tourism through financial assistance by collaborating with the UN Development Program that would:
- a. Encourage developed Member States to incentivize LDC and SIDS to invest in the protection of their biodiversity assets facilitated through funds in tandem with the United Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEPFI) by:
 - i. Building on the Programme of Action for the (LDCs) for the Decade 2011–2020 to promote the efforts of the least developed Member States and SID:
 1. To successfully develop a sustainable tourism sector, in particular through infrastructure and human capital development;
 2. Providing increased access to finance and enhanced access to global tourism collaboration systems and distribution channels;
 - ii. Recommending that Member States build off the foundation of sustainable development in Agenda 2063 as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation to encourage the use of biodiversity to strengthen the economy;

- iii. Encouraging the funding of the Gulf Cooperation Council to create more green jobs opportunities and renewable energy resources funded by the United Nation Environment Programme Finance Initiative;
12. *Encourages* the adoption of new methods that hold the potential to make the sustainable goals for energy and agriculture attainable, such as:
 - a. Considering vertical hydroponic farming and other innovative techniques to protect biodiverse areas from mono species agriculture in places where regenerative farming is unattainable;
 - b. Directing produce yields to food independence in Member States through the creation of domestic food supply chains;
 - c. Using new revenue streams from viable energy systems such as geothermal power, solar power, nuclear power, and others meeting the individual needs of member states;
13. *Suggests* Member States promote green transit systems to mitigate the greenhouse gas effect, which fossil fuels have contributed heavily to by:
 - a. Guaranteeing well-balanced distribution of spaces dedicated to living, recreational and natural purposes by installing car-free zones, or spaces dedicated exclusively to flora and fauna;
 - b. Building green cities which will be using mostly sustainable energy and thereby fostering the transition to renewable energy usage overall;
 - c. Assuring that member states, which are still in a state of development, will receive special support in the implementation of Green Cities, which consists of funding by the UNEP;
14. *Proclaims* that updating infrastructures with sustainable practices in mind will help to diversify single revenue economies and create environmental benefits across the globe by asking Member States to hire citizens of their respective nation to build such infrastructures, resulting in economic prosperity and environmental benefits;
15. *Hopes for collaboration* with the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in order to build local capacity within Member States without adequate infrastructure for ecological protection by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to collaborate on implementing a fee that would apply to the highest producers of single-use plastic and reinvesting the funds collected in revitalization projects for particularly Small Island Developing States, Latin American, and other developing states;
 - b. Ensuring rural access in LDCs to gas and electric stoves to mitigate the need for illegal logging;
 - c. Suggesting Member States follow the protocols set forth by the Convention on the Protection and Usage of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) in order to ensure effective multilateral cooperation regarding access to water management;
 - d. Encouraging a collaborative check in on ecological efforts at the 2023 Water Conference;
 - e. Incorporating indigenous communities to disincentivize poaching and create local jobs for well-trained conservation rangers;
16. *Suggests* the creation of Amphibious Protections Framework that will work with Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and all Coastal States by:
 - a. Collaborating with local and regional fishermen to ensure that their business practices and new operational practices will not negatively impact coastal Member States;
 - b. Recommending the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to work with developing and developed Member States to create a program which aids in the regulation of fisheries and combat overfishing;

- c. Working with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to implement the Mangrove Coastal Protection Project to ensure the protection and restoration of eroding coastlines and provide nursery grounds for fish populations in SIDS;
- 17. *Welcomes* regional coordination mechanisms to adopt the National Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan for different Member States to reduce threats, and allow for the expansion of biodiversity:
 - a. Highlighting the significance of shifting from a linear economy to a circular economy, by promoting transparent procedures, informing citizens of ongoing plans and solutions set forth by governmental bodies;
 - b. Encouraging collaboration between citizens and governmental bodies to produce systems that benefit nations as a whole;
 - c. Ensuring effective prioritization of waste management;
- 18. *Supports* collaboration with UNEP for the establishment of Protected Areas, until over 30% of the land and water throughout the world is effectively protected by local conservation rangers;
- 19. *Emphasizing* the need for capacity building by formulating an international guide for the successful implementation of natural reservoirs and park systems maintaining ecosystems and generating tax revenue through sustainably centered tourism ensuring non-intrusion to flora and fauna:
 - a. Advising developing nations on the formulation of nature reserves with input and guidance from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for the purpose of utilizing the organization's scientific expertise to direct the most effective framework for Member States;
 - b. Encouraging the integrated framework for biodiversity protection through nature reserves that yield tax revenues through ecotourism;
- 20. *Further invites* international collaboration to solve the problem of biological diversity loss through preventative measures not only beneficial to the environment but also the economy.



Code: GA2/1/2

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Reaffirming Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, which highlights the importance of life on land, including all biodiversity and animal species whilst acknowledging the fact that millions of species remain unknown to this day,

Noting with deep concern the steep decline in the current state of biodiversity while acknowledging with disquietude the increasingly globalized system of mass surveillance technology,

Acknowledging the importance of international cooperation, especially through SDG 17, which highlights the importance of strengthening and implementing global partnerships worldwide in order to preserve the biosphere and maintain a sustainable future,

Alarmed by the unprecedented decrease in global biodiversity, with approximately 1 million species now threatened with extinction, according to the UN Report “Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’; Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’”,

Realizing the necessity of the usage of highly developed technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), satellite technologies, spatial data, and other technologies, that can be utilized to combat issues regarding biodiversity,

Underlining the merits and the need to develop programs, such as the UN Interagency Working Group on AI, that aims to develop research in artificial intelligence to preserve biodiversity,

Bearing in mind the usefulness of AI in, including, but not limited to species identification, poaching mitigation, elimination of plastic in the oceans, and limitation of the overconsumption of water in agricultural practices,

Highlighting the UN Personal Data Protection and Privacy Principles,

Calling attention to implementing digital educational data through social media, educational networks, programs, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), so Member States can better understand and have easier access to methods that promote environmentally-friendly agricultural and industrial practices,

Congratulating the determination of Member States on resolving the issue of deforestation and land degradation,

Recalling the role of Member States in financing biodiversity conservation programs,

Recognizing the importance of researching COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases that affect the preservation of biodiversity through international cooperation,

Taking into consideration the work done by UN specialized agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and their accomplishments in diminishing food insecurity and poverty through promoting sustainable agriculture practices to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Invites* Member States to expand the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in tackling issues regarding biodiversity by:
 - a. Joining intergovernmental working groups, such as the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence;
 - b. Promoting national research programs on AI in the service of biodiversity;

- c. Investing in local, regional, and international AI development projects for biodiversity;
 - d. Asking for funds from Member States with the financial capacity, Government Organizations, and NGOs, in order to advance sustainable development programs through the implementation of AI technology, especially in order to:
 - i. Allocate a portion of the funds to Developing Nations and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that do not have the means to implement AI technologies and;
 - ii. Dedicate a portion of funds towards programs destined to create new jobs in the sector of Artificial Intelligence to continue and expand sustainable development in the field of biodiversity;
2. *Encourages* cooperation between Member States, NGOs, and Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) to continue creating and implementing the usage of technologies based on AI to preserve biodiversity through:
- a. Inviting Member States to create a convention on utilizing AI for the conservation of biodiversity and establishing a platform dedicated to the sharing of AI technologies to ensure that all Member States have access to advances in AI that will:
 - i. Provide equal access to data on endangered species and genetic resources based on the Nagoya Protocol established in the Convention on Biological Diversity of 2010;
 - ii. Implement data collection on endangered species and existing agricultural lands through state-appointed data analysts, that will research the findings of the reports designed by their respective Member States, which will then allow them, with the use of AI, to closely track the movements and actions of these species and act preemptively from certain dangerous situations like illegal hunting or the effects of overexploitation of land;
 - iii. Include additional use of satellite imagery and the UNEP artificial intelligence project, ARIES to assist the areas most threatened by biodiversity loss;
 - iv. Emphasize that data collected by the state-appointed analysts will be shared only if that particular Member State gives official government permission;
 - b. Establishing educational initiatives that will raise awareness and knowledge sharing among Member States on matters concerning the relationship between artificial intelligence and efforts to preserve global biodiversity by:
 - i. Using digital platforms accessible to the public throughout the globe, such as Twitter and Youtube, which will offer educational capsules regarding AI and its utility in preventing biodiversity loss, educational infographics concerning what is AI and its importance, and concrete involvement opportunities concerning AI and prevention of biodiversity loss;
 - ii. Collaborating alongside Non-Governmental Organizations' (NGOs), who will be tasked with managing the organizational and technicalities of these educational campaigns;
 - iii. Mainly focusing on exposing the younger generations to the role of artificial intelligence in assisting private and public institutions to develop eco-friendly infrastructure;
 - c. Recommending Member States analyze what sustainable methods of agriculture and biodiversity conservation are efficient and share it with those amongst the cooperation in order to:
 - i. Ease the transition to sustainable agricultural methods for the Member States by showing them examples of concrete and successful sustainable actions;
 - ii. Further protect a larger quantity of at-risk species and establish more conservation of habitats in the Member States who struggle with so;
 - d. Recommending the development of training programs for the use of artificial intelligence sustained by independent organizations through which:

- i. Public and private organizations can develop infrastructure plans for the application of monitoring devices, data analysis, and regulation;
 - ii. Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations, and NGOs will have better access and understanding of AI technology;
- e. Researching machine learning techniques, which allow the agriculture industry to reduce carbon emissions by optimizing livestock production and crop harvesting, using historical data to predict:
 - i. The best timing for planting and harvesting grain through weather patterns and climate change;
 - ii. The most effective methods for rearing livestock and harvesting byproducts;
- 3. *Stresses* that technologies, which include but are not limited to, satellites, cameras, AI technology, and open-data collection will be limited to the purpose of monitoring, regulating, protecting, and advising in the sustainable use of biological diversity activities and resources;
- 4. *Further invites* Member States to employ technologies such as satellites, camera traps, and AI that can facilitate the protection of the environment by:
 - a. Deciphering the images taken of illicit activity regarding environmental protections more efficiently;
 - b. Monitoring the illicit activity against endangered species and ecosystems more efficiently;
 - c. Allowing faster processing of information through the use of AI processors that have been used traditionally;
 - d. Analyzing ocean areas and species for changes in populations and violations of their habitats, especially in regards to the proper enactment of the 1995 *Fish Stock Agreements*, via:
 - i. The implementation of AI to identify rogue vessels found on the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels, and Supply Vessels, in footage provided by coastal authorities;
 - ii. The implementation of AI to filter and report back to the UN any information on the national maritime data relating to current fish stocks;
- 5. *Recommends* Member States develop new biodiversity programs that will be funded by both governmental and intergovernmental funds, such as the Central African Forest Initiative or the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, and the financial assistance will be distributed among the Member States, predicated on:
 - a. Ensuring that the annual deforestation rate is not higher than 0.5%;
 - b. Ensuring that at least 5% of the Member State's surface area is covered by natural protected areas that are preserved by the nation's National Government;
- 6. *Recommends* Member States comply with environmental-economic accounts of The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting to establish a systematic way to report on stocks and flows of natural capital and create a standard for environmental-economic accounting;
- 7. *Proposes* the expansion of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and to continue the release of information on financing sustainable forest management in all Member States and jurisdictions, as well as expanding the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) framework that guides activities to improve the sustainable management and conservation of forests;
- 8. *Reiterates* the critical role that Member States have in voluntary funding to the FAO and IFAD so that their programs and projects may effectively attempt to defeat hunger, specifically in rural and indigenous communities, by endorsing additional investments in the fields of sustainable agriculture

and biological diversity to directly improve the income of communities whose livelihood is dependent on;

9. *Invites* Member States to the International COVID-19 Prevention and Research Group that will study the link between the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, caused by a zoonotic coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), and ecosystem health under the authority of the General Assembly Second Committee with the investigation results of the group being presented in one year after the closure of the Group's first regular session, with the intention of:
 - a. Implementing the policies formulated by the General Assembly Second Committee and the guidance received from the Member States;
 - b. Forming scientific and investigation teams that will be overseen by the Research Group and the national governments of the Member States;
 - c. Providing Member States with all the necessary information on the connection between the biodiversity loss and zoonotic diseases, as well as preemptive and protective information;
 - d. Recommending new initiatives to the General Assembly Second Committee and, if required, to other bodies of the United Nations;
 - e. Providing Member States with up-to-date reports on the results of the ongoing investigation;
 - f. Providing international research personnel of the Group with all necessary research facilities and equipment that are able to safely study COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases;
 - g. Drafting annual and monthly work plans;
 - h. Documenting the results of the Research Group, which will be posted on the official UN website no later than two weeks in advance of sessions.



Code: GA2/1/3

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: The Convention on Biological Diversity and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Promoting the transition from fossil fuel dependency to renewable energy resources,

Recognizing the needs of agrarian societies and subsistence farmers in the pursuit of a global transition to sustainable agricultural practices in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (zero hunger),

Acknowledging the disproportionate loss of biodiversity due to the global onset of climate change and unsustainable industries in developing countries,

Emphasizing the knowledge and experience indigenous groups are able to share regarding sustainable land use, with the understanding that rural and native communities are heavily affected by food insecurity and environmental instability, according to a report from the Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform,

Recognizing that sustainable agriculture is economically, environmentally, and socially beneficial to Member States as it helps to maintain soil quality and the preservation of water leading to substantially improved cultivation of crops,

Recalling the role of the European Union's (EU) National Rural Framework in implementing EU Rural Developing programmes through facilitating information sharing across European Member States,

Deeply conscious of the importance of establishing and protecting natural heritage sites for vulnerable lands, and balancing the preservation of the land while allowing financial income through tourism to achieve the World Heritage Commission's goal to "identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit to future generations the world's outstanding cultural and natural heritage",

Regarding with approval the SDGs that contribute to global sustainability both economically and ecologically,

Concerned about the continued use of harmful agricultural techniques, such as the use of chemicals like Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) insecticide or the use of slash and burn agriculture,

Alarmed by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) reports on the rise of global temperatures worldwide, which is partly the result of the overexploitation of non-renewable fossil fuels,

Acknowledging the importance of SDGs 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 12 (responsible consumption and production) for transitioning to more sustainable cities and communities while ensuring sustainable consumption,

Underlining with concern the legislation gaps among Member States regarding wildlife crime and illegal trading of species, as mentioned by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the *World Wildlife Crime Report*, and aware of the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online,

Alarmed by the lack of progress being made toward SDG 15's (life on land) goal of halting biodiversity loss, with the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division's report indicating that species extinction risk has increased roughly 10% over the past three decades,

Noting the economic devastation experienced by Member States due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, its detrimental effects on developing Member States ability to invest in the SDGs, and the financial stress experienced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and other funding bodies in promoting economic rehabilitation,

Deeply concerned that, according to the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform (IPBES), 1 million species out of an estimated 8 million are at risk of extinction, particularly due to climate change and human activities,

Cognizant of the lack of national reporting by participating Member States on the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) (1992), in purview of Article 1 outlining the database, research, and sharing of information are essential towards a solution of restoring biological diversity,

Emphasizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the *Paris Agreement* (2015),

Acknowledging the consequences of the loss of biodiversity directly upon the environment and its effects on global welfare, intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the 12% decrease in tropical forest acreage in 2020, as according to a 2021 World Resources Institute report,

Reiterating the importance of knowledge in biodiversity loss prevention, the importance of education in raising awareness, and engagement of the youth, with special concern for biodiversity and climate change,

Calling attention to the fact that according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), 68% of plant and animal species have gone extinct in the past 50 years,

Fully aware that the economic situations of several Member States do not allow the prioritization of conservation of biodiversity, and that the United Kingdom's report *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review* (2021) notes that the stock of natural capital has declined by 40% per capita in the period from 1992 to 2014,

Acknowledging the need for modern and efficient capacity building and data sharing capacities between all Member States,

Noting with great concern that marine commercial traffic in navigable bodies of water has contributed to an increase in pollution and wildlife collisions, with 300-400 million tons of hazardous materials being dumped annually into the world's waters as a result,

Highlighting the 1995 *Fish Stock Agreement* that marked a decisive step in the establishment of a comprehensive legal regime for the conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly and highly migratory fish stocks,

Emphasizing the strategic importance of collaboration through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for funding various projects related to promoting biodiversity,

Deeply conscious of the importance of glacial preservation and creating educational opportunities, while considering the risk that glacier melting has on disrupting regional water and hydropower supplies,

Expressing approval of environmental employment programs, such as the Global Conservation Corps, undertaken in coordination with the UN's Office of Project Services (UNOPS), which has improved community buy-in on environmental protection, increased employment, and protected significant land,

Recognizing that actions affecting water resources in individual states impact neighboring Member States,

Concerned about the reliance on non-renewable natural resources economy and its impact on the environment and biodiversity,

Recognizing that an estimated investment of private capital up to \$967 billion is required each year if the decline in biodiversity is to be reversed by 2030,

Dismayed by the negative effects that companies have on biodiversity, as, in 2017, 100 companies were responsible for 71% of global emissions,

Also concerned with the dwindling possibility of preventing a global temperature increase of 1.5°C set in the *Paris Agreement* and acknowledging the average increase in global temperature of 1.19°C since 1880,

Worried about the process for adding species to Appendix I and II of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES)(1978), which is based on adoption by a two-thirds vote,

Emphasizing the importance of the CBD, which highlights the need for an increase in technical and financial infrastructure through additional support programmes, which is needed to protect biodiversity,

Aware of the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, which is actively working on eliminating online markets involved in illegal poaching by creating a global partnership with companies from all across the world,

Recognizing that although the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: A Barometer of Life, contributed to shaping a comprehensive vision of all existing species and their condition, it does not propose key targets for any amount of listed species,

Reaffirming the various needs of Member States across the world with different geographic and environmental issues, with the knowledge that biodiversity loss cannot be tackled with one general strategy due to each Member States' respective environments,

Having devoted attention toward multilateral cooperation between Member States in the pursuit of data and analytic exchange,

Concerned by the 2021 IPBES report outlining the negative impacts of the decline in biodiversity that could affect 80% of the objectives of the SDGs,

1. *Encourages* Member States to continue implementing SDG 2 with the aim of having fully sustainable agriculture by 2030, through improving current and future agriculture by:
 - a. Promoting a more holistic approach to agriculture and farming, including small-scale farms and local agriculture;
 - b. Improving already existing irrigation systems in order to provide adequate hydration for crops even with a limited supply of water, without requiring significant energy input or financial capital, such as sprinklers, trickle, surface- and subsurface;
 - c. Transitioning away from using freshwater in agriculture to the use of sewer-treated effluent for sustainable irrigation and agriculture;
2. *Suggests* Member States create agro-environmental support programs that assist ecological farming by:
 - a. Recommending that farmers use soil conservation techniques such as no till farming, crop rotation, and wind breaks;
 - b. Developing zoning laws that ensure the use of buffer strips in between crop fields;
 - c. Implementing Drought and Water Scarcity Management Systems to prevent agricultural damage caused by droughts and poor irrigation practices;
 - d. Providing subsidies to farmers for the purpose of buying highly efficient irrigation systems such as Low Energy Precision Application sprinklers;
 - e. Increasing knowledge of the ecosystems in which farming occurs to foster a greater understanding of how certain crop types interact within the ecosystem itself;
3. *Intends* to build a fair, equitable, green economy to support sustainable market models, and to increase global employment opportunities by further developing sustainable industry sectors into the economy by:
 - a. Recognizing an emerging demand for labor regarding sustainable agricultural practices and knowledge sharing, the transition to green energy, and maintaining and building infrastructure within Member States;
 - b. Supporting the development of infrastructures such as roads and other public goods that lessen the daily economic burden of our Member States and non-state actors;
 - c. Underlining with concern the urgency to protect the environment in regards to simultaneously protecting the prosperity of all communities: rural, urban, and indigenous;
4. *Recommends* increasing biodiversity awareness specifically within rural and indigenous communities by:

- a. Modelling the EU National Rural Network as a strategic guide to support and enhance rural development;
 - b. Consulting local and regional experts on conditions to target vulnerable areas in partnership with the UN Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems with the goals of respecting, recognizing, protecting, and strengthening Indigenous Peoples' food systems across the world;
5. *Welcomes* the usage of ecotourism to promote environmental awareness and sustainable income by endorsing the establishment of Natural Heritage Sites and encouraging the balance between environmental preservation and generating self-sustaining revenue by:
 - a. Advertising activities such as hiking, birdwatching, and wildlife photography;
 - b. Encouraging that Member States offer guided tours, explaining and educating tourists on the history of the area, and how to respect and appreciate the environment;
 - c. Reducing travel restrictions related to COVID-19 in countries that have high rates of vaccination and low numbers of new cases;
 - d. Working closely with the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) on local levels;
6. *Suggests* Member States promote green transit systems to mitigate climate change and the greenhouse gas effect, which fossil fuels have contributed heavily to, by:
 - a. Promoting the purchase of green cars among the population who have the means to do so;
 - b. Installing green infrastructure frameworks in areas where new transit systems are being planned and established;
 - c. Assuring a well-balanced distribution of spaces dedicated to living, recreational and natural purposes by installing car-free zones, or spaces dedicated exclusively to flora and fauna;
 - d. Building green cities, which will be using mostly sustainable energy and thereby fostering the transition to renewable energy usage overall;
7. *Recommends* the utilization of non-damaging alternatives to harmful pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides through:
 - a. Encouraging the reducing the production of chemicals such as DDT, which has been proven to significantly negatively impact vulnerable species;
 - b. Encouraging the use of biopesticides, such as native microbial organisms which protect agricultural crops with less of an impact on non-target species;
 - c. Establishing sustainable agricultural solutions to reduce the need for pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides;
 - d. Discouraging the use of slash-and-burn agriculture;
8. *Encourages* the creation of city farms for Member States, such as green roofs or vertical farming to provide efficient and environmentally friendly farming by using urban areas to:
 - a. Provide food and natural products to growing towns;
 - b. Decrease the issue of carbon dioxide emission through the use of hydraulic farming techniques;
9. *Advocates* for access to and awareness of carbon-zero solutions through the implementation of renewable energy practices and promoting energy distribution and infrastructure through:
 - a. Educating citizens in various methods to refrain from harmful energy practices by:

- i. Continuing to execute efforts noted in the *Paris Agreement* as well as implement further policies regulating unsafe energy practices;
 - ii. Incentivizing economic benefits to those who build and use more efficient renewable energy sources;
 - b. Updating energy grid infrastructures, providing more storage and accessibility to these renewable energy sources by:
 - i. Employing and connecting energy grid networks to advocate accessibility and interoperability in the harvesting and consumption of energy;
 - ii. Integrating decentralized grid networks to allow Member States to use, store, and share energy sources seamlessly with appointed members while still maintaining security and ownership of the product;
10. *Encourages* additional research into prominent threats to biodiversity in developing countries in order to enable them to better confront those issues by:
 - a. Inviting Members States to contribute further knowledge, resources, and expertise to the IPBES;
 - b. Further inviting the use of scientific research to ground policy decision-making among Member States;
11. *Recommends* that Member States provide financial incentives to citizens and agencies that engage in sustainable practices to protect local ecosystems, such as:
 - a. Providing grants for partaking in Member State sponsored natural area restoration;
 - b. Incentivizing price reductions on sustainably sourced products;
12. *Suggests* expanding the Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) initiative beyond the EU by:
 - a. Encouraging large-scale farmers to dedicate 5% of their arable land to biodiversity-beneficial activities like fallowing or wildflower strips;
 - b. Recommending governments incentivize farmers with “green compensations” such as subsidies and tax reductions;
 - c. Proposing that small-scale farmers (less than 15 hectares of arable land) use such monetary incentives to promote organic agriculture instead of monoculture;
13. *Seeks to prevent* the exploitation of developing Member States, which have significant financial consequences, by encouraging sustainable local resource extraction;
14. *Strongly recommends* the creation of protected zones within High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) areas to:
 - a. Mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis by protecting forests that hold large amounts of carbon and aid in the UN’s net-zero carbon emission by 2050 goal;
 - b. Protect the habitat of species living in HFLD areas and thus safeguard biodiversity in established zones;
 - c. Reduce further deforestation caused by industrial-scale agriculture and logging;
15. *Encourages* collaboration between Member States to improve environmental conditions by:
 - a. Ensuring that Member States follow through with their commitment to existing policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the over-exploitation of resources;
 - b. Expanding the regulation of the legal trade of natural resources among involved parties using Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) like those found in the EU Forest Law

Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan in 2003 in which the content of the agreement is decided through a deliberative consultation process involving stakeholders from government, the private sector, and civil society;

16. *Suggests* expanding the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to include monitoring progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the CBD by:
 - a. Developing and strengthening current technologies such as satellites to map regions, track changes, and collect data on forested areas;
 - b. Using and evaluating the data in the committee to determine how Member States are progressing toward SDG 15 in addressing conserving biological diversity;
17. *Proposes* the creation of a new global 15-year plan as a continuation of the CBD that includes:
 - a. Creating updates to biodiversity standards and goals to be met by 2037 including:
 - i. Transitioning to renewable energy production and consumption, aiming for Member States to have 45% dependency on renewable energy sources by 2050;
 - ii. Creating rewilding and ecological focus area programs in Member States, aiming for Member States to contribute preferably at least 5% of their sovereign territory to such efforts;
 - b. Supporting the entry of sustainable industries into the economy and transition of industrial industries to green;
 - c. Promoting the increase of renewable energy via the promotion of university-based research initiatives;
 - d. Encouraging the CBD to establish a new working group focused on sustainable agriculture in order to communicate best practices with all relevant stakeholders by publishing an annual report within the Biodiversity Capacity Development update;
18. *Suggests* that Member States consider the creation of a global pandemic preparedness plan that would:
 - a. Improve guidelines regarding the handling of and interactions with various biologically diverse species and zoonotic diseases;
 - b. Promote and protect endangered species and their habitats across the globe, especially through the information-sharing regarding these species;
 - c. Invest in research towards sustainable personal protection equipment (PPE) and sustainable PPE disposal practices to mitigate the effects of single-use polypropylene PPE;
 - d. Invite companies and organizations that focus on sustainable textiles and medical equipment such as Burlington Industries and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to cooperate on research towards sustainable PPE and waste management practices;
19. *Asks* to expand upon the program of Global Action Program (GAP) on the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to include the Global Environmental Education Opportunities (GEEO) for educational and employment opportunities through environmental concerns by:
 - a. Inviting Member States to put in place environmental clinics and hands-on programs that focus on research and the execution of SDGs 4, 13, 14, and 15;
 - b. Forming an annual conference for representatives of Member States to learn sustainability tactics specific to their Member State and Regional Bloc by:
 - i. Working towards extending local education in schools to have access and introduce climate curriculum into the local schools;

- ii. Studying the transition to renewable fuel utilization in an effort to reduce the methane gas levels and fossil fuel emissions;
 - iii. Expanding the ideals of the Green Recovery Action Plan's pillar goals to enhance the access to resources, knowledge, and agriculture resilience to the adversities of the climate issues at hand;
 - iv. Using skills obtained from the conference to educate people of their respective Member States in a casual forum or seminar held in several different cities and towns;
 - c. Suggesting the mandatory implementation of climate-related topics such as biological diversity in school curricula, focusing on informing primary and secondary students about environmental and biodiversity areas in their State;
20. *Strongly emphasizes* supporting international research programs in cooperation with universities located near biodiversity hotspots by:
- a. Insisting on regional teaching hospitals to promote public and planetary health;
 - b. Providing vocational training for glacial preservation to create educational opportunities;
21. *Establishing* an international independent UNESCO staff program for sharing knowledge on essential biodiversity issues, which supports Member States to achieve the execution of the SDGs;
22. *Acknowledging* UNESCO and the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) to consider funding for the GEE0;
23. *Encourages* Member States to assist in funding smaller nations' development of sustainability education for persons under the age of 18 while ensuring equal opportunity for all;
24. *Encourages* cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the General Assembly Second Committee, and UN Member States by:
- a. Utilising existing regional organizations and frameworks to analyze and share data and information ensuring solutions are specialized, tailor-made, and specific to each respective situation;
 - b. Improving information, data, and research sharing based upon a geographical and scientific basis;
 - c. Increasing knowledge of the ecosystems in which farming occurs to foster a greater understanding of how certain crop types interact within the ecosystem itself;
25. *Endorses* Member States to create training centers in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), that will provide innovative learning solutions to those in the labor market and establish highly valuable technical and vocational training in sustainable sectors;
26. *Encourages* continued international efforts to improve management of both endemic and invasive species domestically and between nations through:
- a. Regulation of what species are transported between Member States, and keeping track of what invasive species have been established between nations;
 - b. Implementing the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), UNEP, and World Trade Organisation's (WTO) recommended trade regulations to mitigate the accidental spread of invasive species through practices such as:
 - i. Utilising airtight shipping containers;
 - ii. Flushing and refilling ballast tanks from boats that have traversed international waters;
 - iii. Implementing regular hull cleaning and utilizing anti-fouling coating to prevent biofouling;

- c. Reaffirming and continuing to follow the guidelines established by Global Invasive Species Programme's (GISP) *Global Strategy For Addressing The Problem of Invasive Species*, established at the 2000 Convention for Biological Diversity;
 - d. Project implementations for the swift and adequate relocation of endemic species to other regions with similar biomes and characteristics;
27. *Endorses* the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) media campaign, that aims at projecting red flags and increasing attention towards biodiversity issues, concerning the rapid decline of the environment and its biodiversity by:
- a. Recognising that the decline of biodiversity and climate change topics should have sustained media coverage at a large scale to politicize and prioritize ecology and biodiversity-related topics;
 - b. Circumscribing a portion of the Conference of the Parties' CBD dedicated to the interpretation of said initiative to be subjected to scrutiny by peer reviews and regular feedback sessions in order to assess the effective utility of said initiative;
 - c. Dedicated to specific Biodiversity Section (BS) of their news coverage, *i.e.* content related to climate change and corollaries and formally reviewed by the IPCC's board of experts;
 - d. Granting, if the previous conditions are met, a UN Quality Stamp of Approval that recognizes the reliability and veracity of information;
28. *Calls for* Member States to expand the Global Biodiversity Information Facility in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) in order to:
- a. Create economic incentives for governments, businesses, and individuals to prioritize strategies to combat biodiversity loss;
 - b. Develop and execute strategies and best-practices other countries with similar geographic landscapes;
 - c. Provide funding for developing Member States that do not have the capacity to fund their biodiversity conservation projects through voluntary donations from developed states with the financial capacity;
 - d. Collect and analyse information on global plant and animal species such as official population counts and breeding habits;
29. *Strongly supports* Member States' ability to develop Conservation Corps under the guidelines of the UNOPS, dedicated to education and local employment in the form of conservation connected activities;
30. *Considers* the expansion of existing educational programs that assist developing Member States without necessary technology through:
- a. Suggesting a system for rural areas and schools to educate the citizens of Member States to familiarise themselves with ways they can farm and protect the future of the environment by the sustainable utilization of resources in their specific region;
 - b. Recognizing the Climate Action Network as a resource for educating volunteer representatives from Member States/Regional Blocs and NGOs on ways to promote sustainability given their region's specific environmental state;
 - c. Utilising voluntary representatives of Member States as interns and voluntary SDG funders like the Climateworks Foundation for transportation, venue fees at the annual conference, and a minor stipend;
31. *Supports* the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity to discuss the role of entrepreneurship and innovation, such as the UNDP Accelerator lab project Youth IDEathon, in their annual meetings to promote sustainable development and biodiversity conservation;

32. *Recommends* that the first phase of the fifteenth Conference of Parties to the CBD (COP), which will take place in a virtual format, be reformatted through:
- a. Scheduling two additional days of the conference in order to be certain that all topics worth tackling can be discussed;
 - b. Considering additional topics such as “Tackling the issues of rebound challenges facing today’s post-COVID-19 biodiversity;”
 - c. Inviting private socio-economic partners to parley directly with the scientific community under the meditation of the international community;
 - d. Introducing new key targets for the number of species that need to be lifted out of the Endangered and Vulnerable IUCN statuses and in Near-threatened status, by recognizing that previous efforts in curbing Biodiversity Loss:
 - i. Lacked sufficient ambition, as can be seen through the scarcity in total territory that protected areas represent nationally;
 - ii. Were not given the proper means to be achieved;
 - e. Developing recommended tools and strategies for habilitate authorities such as:
 - i. Discussing the reach of consensus to combat dogmatism and find solutions that could be applied by every Member State;
 - ii. Working in hand with industries as agropastoralism or tourism opportunities arise;
33. *Supports* adjustments to avoid loss of glaciers and glacier runoff through Glacier Protection Laws, such as the Glacial Restoration, Education, and Employment Network Uniting Nations to Impede Terror and Extend Democracy (GREEN UNITED) Framework, through:
- a. Decontaminating bacteria release from snowpack by monitoring key biogeochemical variables, contaminants, and biodiversity in glacier-fed rivers;
 - b. Mapping glacier mass loss based on imagery and technologies by Establishing Glacier-preservation Education Opportunities (GEO):
 - c. Evaluating, provisioning, and regulating cultural ecosystem services associated with glacier-fed systems, paying specific attention to:
 - i. The implications of emerging concerns about contaminant loads;
 - ii. Providing a more detailed understanding of salmon habitat linking to commercial and sport fisheries;
34. *Highlights* the importance of clean waterways, with an emphasis on the protection of biodiversity in and near navigable waterways and promoting the regulation of high volumes of commercial marine traffic, by Recommending that Member States revisit the *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (2016);
35. *Suggests* Member States protect water from source to mouth through the use of the *Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activity* to reduce the effects of pollution in waterways used by multiple Member States;
36. *Recommends* the formation of regional committees, such as the Central Water Commission in India, for the purposes of coordinating the construction of water resources, with a focus on:
- a. Considering the effects of water infrastructure on downstream Member States by:
 - i. Addressing the disruption dams can have to migratory fish patterns;
 - ii. Considering potential disruption to water flow;
 - b. Confirming the need for upstream States to continue to build and maintain water infrastructure, specifically considered by:

- i. Evaluating the potential for such projects to reduce carbon use;
 - ii. Noting alternative locations for projects which suit all stakeholders;
- c. Creating a body of advisory experts from all relevant Member States to ensure a centralized collection of information regarding the impacts of projects and to mitigate bias of Member States affected;
- d. Ensuring that independent data is used for decision making in bilateral/multilateral natural resource (water) distribution conflicts with incentives for independent data collection given by:
 - i. Recommending that the UNEP fund independent data collectors like NGOs;
 - ii. Giving access to UN Body infrastructure for independent data collectors like NGOs;

37. *Encourages* closer compliance with 1995 *Fish Stock Agreements* that aim to limit overfishing by:

- a. Recognizing economic and socio-cultural aspects of fishing by reaffirming the right of Member States to make use of their marine resources;
- b. Calling for the prioritization of data-driven decision making regarding natural resource issues in order to ensure that ecosystems have the ability to reproduce their entire population in one year, as defined in line with the targets of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg;
- c. Endorsing the strict application of the 2016 *Agreement on Port State Measures* in order to arrest and arraign all vessels not on the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels;
- d. Encouraging communication to the UN of accurate national data relative to maritime ecosystems;
- e. Seeking the development of a comprehensive agreement on fishing rights in disputed waterways, with the specific focus of ensuring that those waters are not overfished;
- f. Encouraging Member States to implement legislation that prevents illegal commercial dumping;
- g. Strongly suggesting that Member States enact creel limits and regulate trawl fishing;

38. *Calls for* Member States to expand the Global Environment Facility in partnership with NGOs and IGOs, aiming to:

- a. Provide additional support and funding from the Natural Resource Management Programme and Kunming Biodiversity Fund to developing Member States with the focus on natural resource conservation, protection, and sustainability, that would:
 - i. Offer additional funding from NGOs, IGOs, and voluntary donations from capable Member States to developing Member States that do not have the capacity for supplying the necessary capital to diversify agricultural output and employ more sustainable methods, as well as the remove regional specific dangers to biodiversity;
 - ii. Invite the return of the partnership with the World Bank to oversee and administer the program that would be funded by private donations from the Member States and other organizations and World Bank funds;
 - iii. Allocate funds from 29 countries worldwide totaling up to \$5.25 billion donated to the Global Environment Facility;
 - iv. Create economic incentives for governments, businesses, and individuals to prioritize strategies to combat biodiversity loss and facilitate the protection of biodiversity in the face of crises;
- b. Focus on economic relief after the pandemic and promote strategies to develop economies that also protect biodiversity by suggesting a debt program;

- c. Encourage negotiations between nations to provide debt relief to developing Member States;
 - d. Fund programs through both broad governing bodies and PPPs, such as cooperation with the IMF;
 - e. Collect, analyse, and disseminate information on global plant and animal species such as official population counts and breeding habits;
 - f. Working in partnership with organizations such as the WWF to consolidate information about biodiversity and work to protect it;
 - g. Raising awareness for biodiversity loss by suggesting the creation of an app that will:
 - i. Provide information about endangered species of plants and animals;
 - ii. Have live streams of animals at different zoos around the world;
 - iii. Be funded by user subscriptions in order to raise money for biodiversity protection;
39. *Promotes* that Member States encourage sustainable business practices and cooperate to ensure those that operate unsustainably are held accountable through:
- a. The development of an international framework for how corporations operate under which:
 - i. Corporations are strongly encouraged to manage resources in accordance with utilization guidelines created by the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and guidelines promoted by the Global Recycled Standard;
 - ii. Corporations operating within Member States are recommended to switch to the exclusive use of renewable energy by the year 2035;
 - iii. All Member States are encouraged to consider creating tax and grant incentives to corporations that operate within their borders to assist in making a sustainable transition affordable, specifically the furthering of the UN program of Design and Investment of Tax Incentives in Developing Countries;
 - b. Encouraging all Member States to consider exclusively conducting business with companies that follow the sustainable practices specified in the PCA, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the CBD;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to reach this goal with all non-essential business partners by 2035 and all essential business partners by 2040;
40. *Recommends* the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity discuss the role of entrepreneurship in biodiversity conservation in their existing annual meetings, as well as analyze the role of PPPs in shaping eco-friendly sustainable development;
41. *Requests* that the Economic and Social Council consider the approval of the People-first Public-Private Partnerships Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs with the aim of boosting public and private investment aided with tools for evaluating PPPs and their effectiveness in providing innovative solutions and diversified funding sources needed for sustainable development in the conservation of biodiversity;
42. *Recommends* that Member States diversify or shift their economy into a more sustainable sector in place of non-renewable natural resources by:
- a. Working on increasing green job opportunities with the International Labour Organisation (ILO);
 - b. Promoting the use of solar panels, wind turbines, and other sustainable energy sources;
 - c. Fostering the consultation of and cooperation with international organizations and national initiatives;

43. *Recommends* that the pursuit of sustainable development should prioritize the development of sustainable agricultural practices through;
- a. Instituting educational training programs on the utilization and development of sustainable agricultural infrastructure in developing countries;
 - b. Distributing adequate sustainable resources to the communities most affected by the transition to sustainable economies and agricultural practices;
 - c. Utilising these methods and resources to supplant currently unsustainable revenue streams and support agrarian communities in their transition away from unsustainable practices such as “slash and burn” agriculture;
44. *Encourages* Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and developing Member States to seek investments in green tourism by collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which would be accomplished by:
- a. Inviting developed Member States to incentivize developing Member States and SIDS to invest in the protection of their biodiversity assets facilitated through funds in tandem with the United Environment Program Finance Initiative by:
 - i. Building off the Programme of Action for developing Member States for the Decade 2011–2020 to promote the efforts of the developing Member States and SIDS;
 - ii. Recommending that Member States build off the foundation of sustainable development in Agenda 2063 as a strategic framework for ensuring the use of biodiversity to strengthen their economies;
45. *Strongly encourages* Member States to protect endangered species by reinforcing policies on the illegal trade of wildlife, concordantly with organizations such as, but not limited to the CITES, which can be done by:
- a. Supporting regional patrols that actively fight against illegal poaching by monitoring areas where endangered species thrive;
 - b. Strengthening online policing, that ensures online traffickers are identified and can no longer participate in illicit wildlife trading taking place online, along with encouraging cooperation in order to have commonly shared databases to control and track wildlife migration;
 - c. Redefining tourism by promoting approaches that do not violate or change natural habitats to support the protection of ecosystems and providing sustainable tourism;
 - d. Encouraging that Member States should work with the help of UN-Water to protect marine ecosystems and seas from petroleum that enters the ocean;
46. *Calls* for the setting of goals in regards to the amount of species to be lifted out of the Endangered and Vulnerable IUCN statuses and into the Near Threatened status by:
- a. Increasing the percentage of protected territory inside total national territories;
 - b. Systematically monitoring the amount of invasive species let loose upon endemic habitats and arranging them by order of disruptiveness in regards to the typology proposed by the IUCN;
47. *Recommends* extending the CBD to prioritize data-driven research regarding multilateral effects of natural resource usage in order to:
- a. Decrease the influence of national interests in providing data on biodiversity;
 - b. Improve the efficiency of the resources, both human and financial, used to increase biodiversity worldwide;

48. *Further recommends* not diverting funding from biodiversity and climate protection in the face of crises, as this would only further enhance the emergence of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19;
49. *Asks* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to collaborate with willing and able Member States to create a programme which will aid in the restructuring of developing Member States' debt to allow more financial capacity to fund biodiversity projects by:
- a. Allocating funds for debt-for-nature swaps in developing countries which would ensure the protection from both creditors and debtors;
 - b. Creating initiatives that aim to protect areas that house a significant population of biodiversity within Member States;
 - c. Supporting the best practices of the circular economy to reduce threats to biodiversity in connection with restoration and conservation efforts;
50. *Commits* to working with Member States on biodiversity and the goal to institute change in order to protect our planet's biodiversity by:
- a. Supporting fellow Member States with government environmental facilities, by providing funding of \$5 billion from the Global Environmental Facilities fund;
 - b. Increasing the awareness of programs and plans specifically dedicated to Biodiversity Conservation, National Plan for Grassland Conservation, National Forest Conservation, Wetland Conservation;
51. *Expresses* its hope for more ambitious propositions from the scientific community regarding the preservation of biodiversity to be published, by:
- a. Condemning the pressure exerted on the scientific community by private entities;
 - b. Disapproving dogmatism in scientific publications while prioritizing a wide diversity of different strategies by recommending a greater array of independent peer-reviewed scientific journals;
 - c. Promoting research and development concerning the viability of eco-responsible industries such as agropastoralism and green tourism, in order to reconcile the interests of the private sector with that of the environment;
52. *Urges* to improve best practice knowledge and technology exchange between Member States through north-south and south-south cooperation, by strengthening coordination regional based on a Member States' needs within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development's five centers of excellence and implementing similar programs, by:
- a. Utilising the African Union Centre of Excellence for Rural Systems and Food Systems to establish workshops on robust and sustainable agriculture practices, specifically for and in rural areas, and establishing similar institutions worldwide;
 - b. Facilitating the efforts of the African Union Centre of Excellence for Climate Resilience through recommitting to sharing data with the center to improve monitoring and preparation for climate-induced hazards to biodiversity, furthermore better integrating more research institutions and universities, and establishing similar institutions worldwide;
53. *Encourages* all existing data sharing bodies to coordinate between Member States to form a pool of shared knowledge and research in terms of understanding the patterns of migration of species and biodiversity loss such as carbon catching technologies which will reduce carbon in the atmosphere;
54. *Calls for* an efficient internationalization of biodiversity efforts through an increased prioritization of building global data capacities, recommending that the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) to increase the focus on increasing data capacities while becoming the main institution to provide significant databases on biodiversity in order to:

- a. Decrease the amount of biased national data, thereby increasing factual access regarding biodiversity on a local level, as well as allowing for a deep evaluation of the cross-border effects of the use of shared resources;
 - b. Improve analysis of multilateral conflicts resulting from limited shared natural resources, such as rivers or lakes, in order to increase transparency in international relations;
 - c. Increase financial incentives for NGOs to provide reliable data on biodiversity by offering a platform on a global, UN level to publish their data;
 - d. Increase efficiency of resources, both human and financial, spent on biodiversity by recognizing that some biodiversity efforts may not be efficient in areas that are predicted to be harmed by unpreventable climate change effects;
55. *Promotes* sustainable inclusive economic growth of developing Member States through the prioritization of their biodiversity by utilizing the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) to assist with the expansion of their respective tourism sectors, with the goal of integrating the environmental dimension into the *United Nations Development Assistance Framework* at the country level;
56. *Calls for* better allocation of resources from more developed to less developed Member States and regions, e.g. by utilizing the SDG index and dashboard to identify specific areas in which various Member States need support, by:
- a. Providing necessary technical, logistical, and financial contributions necessary, e.g. the establishment of biodiversity conservation areas, infrastructure projects, and renewable energy systems development;
 - b. Facilitating knowledge exchange and provision between Member States on biodiversity research, technology, and best practice agriculture through sending experts to assist with providing workshops in e.g. rural areas;
 - c. Collating material resources specifically needed in the light of current events in Member States, like droughts and natural catastrophes, which are mirrored in the SDG Index and Dashboard;
57. *Requests* a holistic agreement in which an international solution for sustainable use of shared natural resources can be reached so that biodiversity is secured from exploitation of an external state's intervention in the natural resource composition by:
- a. Reducing multilateral conflicts, in the sense of military or economic dispute, resulting from limited shared resources;
 - b. Increasing joint efforts in upholding and increasing biodiversity worldwide;
58. *Emphasises* the importance of making agriculture more sustainable by protecting and securing the jobs of the farmers throughout the African Union for purposes of trade and business by:
- a. Reaffirming trade agreements between Member States and strengthening market and free trade relations, and creating cross-border projects and research institutions to ensure data sharing and knowledge sharing;
 - b. Avoiding harmful pesticides in agriculture and protecting species that are crucial in the pollination of plants, by taking advantage of subsidies to encourage sustainable crop diversification practices, which ensure there are varying soil profiles and combating erosion while simultaneously strengthening crop output yields;
 - c. Reinforcing the relations with international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the International Climate Initiative;

59. *Recommends* establishing the International Committee for Increasing Access to Affordable Renewable Energy, thereby:
- a. Serving as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Financial Committee and answer to the Economic and Financial Committee, and will work to:
 - i. Establish or re-evaluate guidelines for creating an ideal balance of energy sources in accordance with SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and with the goal to reduce use of fossil fuels without undue financial strain;
 - ii. Create strategies to increase access to renewable energy and increase support from the private sector;
 - iii. Review the sustainable development report;
 - iv. Craft one report, with consensus, to share with the Economic and Financial Committee;
 - v. Have fifteen members who meet biannually;
 - b. Receiving funds by the Economic and Financial Committee;
60. *Recommends* the development of infrastructure as a driver of sustainable economic growth in collaboration with international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector by:
- a. Advising that Member States continuously update infrastructure reports to monitor the state of bridges, roads, water and energy supply, and digital transformation in both urban and rural areas;
 - b. Supporting the digital transformation of infrastructure to lower the cost of public services along with the *UNDP Digital Strategy 2022-2025* by building digital smart cities, implementing digital administration, and digitalizing the education system;
 - c. Suggesting the development of infrastructure in rural areas to enhance agricultural production to foster sustainable economic growth;
 - d. Encouraging the implementation of community-driven financial activities such as crowdfunding following the framework of the *UNDP COVID-19 digital fundraising platform*, to promote the creation of start-ups addressing sustainability problems, and invite developed Member States to financially assist developing Member States in their infrastructure programs;
 - e. Inviting Member States to conduct scientific research to further enhance infrastructure through closer cooperation between businesses and organizations;
61. *Recommends* the establishment of criteria for automatically adding species to Appendix I and II of CITES based on requirements for the sustainable population of individual species and the subsequent automatic adoption of species to the Appendices based upon the aforementioned criteria;
62. *Suggests* the consideration of the creation of an Arab Coalition Working Group on Biodiversity Investments (ACWGBI), to express the dedication of the Arab World to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through:
- a. Emphasizing the Arab world's responsibility to the international community, especially on biodiversity issues, because the Arab world is united not only in Muslim culture, but also in economic revenue streams in terms of oil;
 - b. Coordinating with strategic carbon-reducing and natural resource respecting industries such as: Ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, and geophysical carbon-reducing industries;
 - b. Further taking into account that developing nations should primarily benefit from ACWGBI's work;
63. *Further calls upon* Member States to collaborate on existing international treaties supporting the recuperation of the world's environments, habitats, land animal species.