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Recommendations to the Norwegian Delegation for Norway's Positions at CBD COP17

The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM) is a network of Norwegian civil society organizations working on climate, biodiversity, sustainable development and human rights. ForUM's biodiversity work promotes ambitious, evidence-based, equitable and inclusive implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with particular attention to the rights and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) must be an implementation COP. The Global Review of collective progress in implementing the KMGBF shows that the world is not on track to achieve the 2030 targets. Norway should work for decisions in Yerevan that turn this diagnosis into accelerated, measurable implementation, adequate implementation means, and stronger accountability. Norway should demonstrate the same ambition at home and work with like-minded countries to mobilize stronger international action and public finance.

Against this background, ForUM recommends that Norway prioritize the following positions under the key COP17 agenda items:

Item 8 – Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

- Increase international public biodiversity finance and mobilize like-minded donor countries to collectively raise contributions and demonstrate leadership. Finance must also become more accessible, predictable, and effective through simpler procedures, lower transaction costs, and stronger recipient-country capacity. Private finance should supplement, not replace, public obligations, and any discussion of broadening the contributor base must not weaken obligations under Article 20 of the CBD.
- Align public and private financial flows with the KMGBF, including through national biodiversity finance plans, stronger tracking and reporting, and avoidance of double counting. Norway should champion the identification, reform and phase-out of biodiversity-harmful subsidies and other incentives under Target 18, while scaling up positive incentives.
- Support simpler and more equitable access to GEF and GBFF resources, stronger country ownership and finance that reaches Indigenous Peoples, local communities and local implementers. Norway should also use its development cooperation and partnerships to encourage peers to increase public finance for KMGBF implementation.

Item 9 – Planning, monitoring, reporting and review

- Defend a strong Yerevan Pathway for Accelerated Implementation that translates the Global Review into stronger and measurable national targets, concrete implementation measures, adequate means of implementation, particularly for developing countries, and accountability for results, rather than additional processes and reporting requirements.
- Support reporting and monitoring that are verifiable, comparable and measurable, based on high-quality data and robust methods. Parties with limited capacity should receive sustained support, and peer learning should be facilitated so that reporting can provide a trusted knowledge base for successive Global Reviews. Data gaps must not automatically be treated as implementation gaps.

- Give particular attention to systemic drivers and implementation gaps, including Targets 14–16 and 18–19, and strengthen the use of traditional knowledge, community-based monitoring and accessible national knowledge systems.

Item 10 – Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities

- Support an SB8j modus operandi that secures the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and defend rights-based implementation of Targets 1, 2, 3, 21 and 22, including recognition of traditional territories, traditional knowledge and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) where applicable.
- Support direct, predictable and accessible finance for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including simplified procedures and dedicated funding windows. Biodiversity action and transition measures must respect rights, livelihoods and access to lands and resources, and affected people must participate meaningfully in decisions that affect them.

Item 11 – Digital sequence information on genetic resources

- Preserve open access to DSI and the multilateral approach. Avoid sequence-by-sequence tracking, unnecessary complexity, and the risk of double payment. Additional product- or service-based contribution modalities should not be introduced unless they demonstrably improve effectiveness, simplicity and equity.
- Ensure COP authority, transparency and accountability in Cali Fund governance, while keeping administration simple and predictable and creating effective incentives for DSI users to contribute. Norway should promote clear information to relevant companies and support capacity-building, technology access and research cooperation so developing countries can use DSI and benefit from both monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing.

Item 12(a) – Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

- Prioritize long-term institutional, scientific and technical capacity linked to the gaps identified by the Global Review, with predictable resources for regional cooperation, South–South and triangular cooperation, monitoring, data systems and knowledge sharing.

Item 14 – Mainstreaming of biodiversity and engagement with subnational governments

- Move whole-of-government implementation from principle to practice through clear sector responsibilities, interministerial coordination and accountability for integrating biodiversity into budgets, economic policy, investment, spatial planning and sector decisions. Nature-related knowledge and accounting must influence decisions, not merely improve information.
- Ensure meaningful participation of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and subnational authorities, and ensure that finance and capacity reach local implementation. Implementation should be socially just, with those whose livelihoods and rights are affected involved in shaping the transition.

Item 17(e) – Matters related to the work program of IPBES

- Move from merely noting IPBES assessments to using their findings in biodiversity, climate, food, finance and development policy. Support stronger requirements for transparent corporate and financial-sector disclosure of biodiversity impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities, coupled with measures that reduce negative impacts and change business and investment decisions.
- Support further evidence-based work on human–wildlife coexistence, including prevention and effective non-lethal measures, building on the discussions at SBSTTA-28.

Item 18 – Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the KMGBF

18(a) Biodiversity and climate change.

- Support practical synergies among the Rio Conventions, including better coordination of national planning, reporting cycles, focal-point cooperation, capacity-building and finance, while preserving each Convention's mandate. Climate mitigation and adaptation must not cause biodiversity loss and should be subject to strong environmental, social and rights-based safeguards.

18(b) Sustainable wildlife management.

- Support adoption of strong global guidance grounded in the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, cumulative-impact assessment, conservation status, genetic viability and knowledge-based monitoring. Legal or regulated hunting and other take should not automatically be treated as sustainable. Human–wildlife coexistence should prioritize prevention and effective non-lethal measures, and strong provisions on monitoring and animal welfare should be retained.

18(d) Biodiversity and agriculture

- Support strong implementation of the Soil Biodiversity Plan of Action, measurable national follow-up and integration of soil biodiversity and soil health into agriculture and land-use policy. Defend the bracketed language on identifying, reforming, and phasing out biodiversity-harmful agricultural subsidies, and promote agroecological and other biodiversity-friendly approaches with meaningful participation of small-scale producers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.

With regards,

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