

Thank you Madam chair,

This is a statement from the Group on Earth Observations – Biodiversity Observation Network or GEO BON.

Consistent biodiversity monitoring is fundamental to assess the progress towards the Aichi targets. Thus, the implementation of **national biodiversity observation networks** is essential to Parties in regards to their reporting commitments to the CBD, but also for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. GEO BON has, since its beginning defined as one of its main goals to **assist parties in the development or enhancement** of their Biodiversity Observation Networks. This is exemplified by the work that has been carried out in **collaboration with the Alexander Von Humboldt Institute in Colombia**, leading to the creation of **BON in a Box**, an online toolkit that serves as a **technology transfer and capacity building mechanism** designed to assist countries and regions in the development of biodiversity observations. GEO BON has also recently established a new global **Working Group for the development of biodiversity observation networks** which includes, as a member, Mexico's CONABIO which has shown exceptional leadership and innovation in biodiversity observations. In addition, GEO BON with its many partners has been working on the **development of biodiversity change indicators**, designed to assess the progress towards Aichi Targets 5, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 19. Those indicators rely on the availability of repeated biodiversity observations in time but also on a better geographical coverage of those observations.

GEO BON believes that this 13th edition of the COP, is the perfect occasion to highlight the relevance and critical need for biodiversity monitoring, and the need for a strong network of biodiversity observation networks. Therefore, we invite you to attend our side event on Tuesday 6th at 6h15pm on **Biodiversity Observations for Decision making**.

Thank you Madam chair