

ITEM 19 – 6th National Reports.

Thank you Chair,

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

Assessing the status and trends of biodiversity is one of the key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This requires repeated biodiversity observations, in time, across countries, and across marine, freshwater and terrestrial realms.

GEO BON acknowledges the need of parties to report on those status and trends and the need for indicators to assess their progress towards the Aichi targets in their sixth national reports. To that extent, GEO BON will continue its efforts to work on the development of the Essential Biodiversity Variables and related indicators for reporting.

GEO BON also encourages parties to develop ahead of time solid Biodiversity Observation Networks in order to acquire and mobilize the biodiversity observations needed for reporting. It is one of GEO BON's mandate to assist countries in this process *as is currently being done in Colombia, China and other countries.*

Looking at the bigger picture, and having a long-term vision in mind, beyond the 6th national reports, and beyond the 5th Global Biodiversity Outlook, GEO BON wishes to encourage the parties to mobilize the data produced in their countries and used for their assessments, when appropriate, into open databases, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

In consideration of this, regarding paragraph 5 of the draft decision regarding national reporting, we request that the Group on Earth Observations-Biodiversity Observation Network be also referenced to support developing countries in the use of scientifically sound data for reporting and the assessment of progress in the achievement of national targets.

Thank you Chair.