



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 January 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 January 2020 from H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledón, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, and H.E. Ms. Mariangela Zappia, Permanent Representative of Italy, the co-facilitators to lead in the preparatory process, including on the modalities of the Summit on Biodiversity as per General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/221.

The letter from the co-facilitators also conveys the zero-draft of the modalities for the Summit, which will be considered at the second informal consultation of the preparatory process on Tuesday, 28 January 2020, at 3:00 p.m., in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

I thank you in advance, for your delegation's active participation, constructive engagement and support in this process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a flourish and a circular mark.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York



Permanent Mission of Costa Rica
to the United Nations

22 January, 2020

Excellency,

Thank you for the constructive engagement of your delegation during the first meeting convened on 16 January 2020, in which we briefed the Membership on the consultation process and roadmap for intergovernmental negotiations of the modalities of the Summit on Biodiversity.

Taking into consideration the comments and ideas provided by delegations during the briefing, we have included in the zero-draft annexed to this letter indicative proposals on the main aspects of the Summit on Biodiversity for your consideration and further discussion.

To that effect, we will hold the second informal consultations on Tuesday, January 28th 2020, at 3 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

We continue to count on your active participation and support throughout this process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Mariangela Zappia

Permanent Representative
of Italy to the United Nations

Rodrigo A. Carazo

Permanent Representative
of Costa Rica to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

ZERO DRAFT

Modalities for the Summit on Biodiversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 74/4 of 15 October 2019, entitled “Political Declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly” and its call on gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

Recalling also its resolutions 73/234 of 20 December 2018 and 74/221 of 19 December 2019,

1. *Decides* that the Summit on Biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government to be convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on the first day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on the second day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; (based on OP1 from A/RES/72/268)

[In case an offer is received by 27 January] [in (host country) on (date), from (time).];

2. *Also decides* that the Summit will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, four Leaders’ Dialogues and a brief closing segment and that the overall theme of the Summit will be “The Future We Want: Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”; (based on OP1 &2 from A/RES/72/268)

3. *Further decides* that:

- (a) The opening segment, to be held from 3 to 3:30 p.m., will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as an eminent champion on biodiversity and a young leader, both to be selected, in consultation with Member States, by the President of the General Assembly; (based on OP3(a) from A/RES/72/268)

- (b) The plenary segment will start at 3:30 p.m. and end at 7 p.m. on the first day of the general debate; and will comprise statements by groups of Member States and Member States and observers of the General Assembly. A list of speakers will be established

in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States; (based on OP3(b) from A/RES/72/268)

- (c) The closing segment, to be held after the conclusion of the Leaders' Dialogues on the second day of the general debate, will comprise key messages from the Leaders' Dialogues and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly; (based on OP5 from A/RES/72/268)

4. Also decides that the organizational arrangements for the Leaders' Dialogues will be as follows:

- (a) Four consecutive Leaders' Dialogues of 45 minutes each will start at 9 a.m. and will end at 12:30 p.m. of the second day of the general debate;

- (b) The Leaders' Dialogues will address the following themes:

[the following is an indicative list of tentative topics based on the discussion of the first informal consultation]

Dialogue 1: Biodiversity for sustainable development

Dialogue 2: Science and innovation

Dialogue 3: Partnerships

Dialogue 4: Financing

(based on OP4(a)&(b) from A/RES/72/268)

- (c) Each Leaders' Dialogue will be presided by two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the Summit, in consultation with the regional groups; (based on OP4(c) from A/RES/72/268)
- (d) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, civil society, the private sector, academia, youth, indigenous peoples and community organizations to serve as speakers on the Leaders' Dialogues, taking into account gender equity, level of development and geographical representation; (based on OP 4(d) from A/RES/72/268)

5. *Decides* that the Summit will result in a short and concise, action-oriented call for ambition, agreed by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly; (based on OP6 from A/RES/72/268)
6. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in the Summit, including in the Leaders' Dialogues, at the highest possible level; (based on OP8 from A/RES/72/268)
7. *Invites* all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level; (based on OP9 from A/RES/72/268)
8. *Invites* non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council with relevant expertise to register with the Secretariat to attend the meeting; (based on OP11 from A/RES/72/268)
9. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the Summit, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable gender and geographical representation and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis¹; (based on OP12 from A/RES/72/268)
10. *Invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General, to participate in the Summit, as appropriate, and urges them to consider initiatives in support of the Summit and its preparation, particularly with regard to sharing relevant good practices, challenges and lessons learned; (based on OP10 from A/RES/72/268)
11. *Encourages* Member States and other potential donors to contribute to the United Nations multi-partner trust fund to support the Summit;

[in the event the Summit is hosted by a Member State - Reiterates the call to Member States and other potential donors to contribute to the United Nations multi-partner trust fund to support the summit primarily to support preparations as well as travel and participation by representatives of developing countries;] (based on OP12 from A/RES/74/221)

¹ The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

12. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national delegations representatives such as parliamentarians, local governments, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous leadership, community organizations and faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, youth and the private sector, with due regard to gender equity; (based on OP14 from A/RES/72/268)
13. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Summit. (based on OP15 from A/RES/72/268)