

Securing high-level business and finance participation at COP15

Dear Ms Mrema, Minister Huang and Minister Guilbeault,

We – a group of globally diverse business, finance and conservation organizations – are writing to you ahead of the final round of negotiations of the UN Biodiversity COP15, due to take place in Montreal, Canada from 5-17 December with a few requests for your kind consideration.

We agree with your key message that to be successful, the Global Biodiversity Framework needs a whole-of-society approach to support its implementation. For this to happen, participation and inclusion of all stakeholder groups is key at COP15. We are committed to bringing senior leaders to Montreal, to advocate for and support an ambitious outcome.

We truly appreciate the efforts already made to engage businesses and financial institutions. We welcome additional measures to attract even more to be present to both inspire and deliver real leadership and action from all business to halt and reverse nature loss. Given the positive reaction in our business networks to the announcement of the COP15 dates, and with the requests we outline below being met, we expect more than 100-150 companies and financial institutions to attend.

In order to make this happen, we urge you to kindly consider the below:

1. **Organize an impactful and inclusive Business and Biodiversity Forum during COP15** that:
 - a. includes high-level speakers such as Senior Government Ministers and CEO/C-suite representatives from business and finance,
 - b. runs back-to-back with the high-level segment, with several opportunities to allow senior business, civil society and political leaders to meet,
 - c. is planned at least 3 months ahead to allow participants at the right level to plan attendance,
 - d. allows for both in-person and virtual participation,
 - e. demonstrates how the private sector can – and must – contribute to implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework,
 - f. has an agenda which is co-created with representatives with all stakeholders including the business community, and public and private finance.
2. **Send a formal invitation from Ministers to CEOs** of leading and progressive businesses and financial institutions to:
 - a. take part in-person during the high-level segment at COP15 convened by China,
 - b. participate in a Ministerial reception and/or other high-level specific events.
3. **Provide a 'Business and Finance Action Hub' on the ground** in the conference center in Montreal, building on plans proposed by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to convene space for businesses and financial institutions to engage throughout COP15 to showcase and share knowledge on how businesses are tackling nature loss through their strategies, commitments, partnerships, investments and supply chains. The United Nations Environment Programme

Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) is willing to bring together leaders from the investment and finance community too.

4. **Make sure the logistics of COP15 are communicated ahead of time** to ensure the active participation of CEOs and other business and finance representatives as well as for inclusive civil society participation. This means:
 - a. complete clarity on dates and access badges at least 3 months in advance,
 - b. a clear summary of how else CEOs can engage, e.g., through a business-focused program,
 - c. a clear ask for the private sector to activate their own government/business networks to help make COP15 a success.

As you know, the business and finance community require engagement at the highest possible level at COP15 to drive their ownership and accountability for the success of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

We stand ready to work with you to make all the above asks a reality. Our organizations are ready to step up and collaborate wherever this could help the CBD to ensure the adoption of a transformative global agreement on nature.

Yours faithfully,

Melanie Heath, Director – Science, Policy and Information, **BirdLife International**

Eva Zabey, Executive Director, **Business for Nature**

Andrew Petersen, CEO, **Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD) Australia**

Marina Grossi, President, **CEBDS Brazil**

João Wengorovius Meneses, Secretary-general, **Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD) Portugal**

Mark Gough, Chief Executive Officer, **Capitals Coalition**

Clare Shine, Director and CEO, **Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)**

Paul Dickinson, Founder Chair, **CDP**

Ms. Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**

Yolan Friedmann, CEO, **Endangered Wildlife Trust**

Claire Tutenuit, General Delegate, **Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE)**

Tanya Bascombe, General Manager, **European Outdoor Conservation Association**

Anita de Horde and Anne-Marie Bor, Coordinators, **Finance for Biodiversity Foundation**

Raelene Martin, Head of Sustainability, **International Chamber of Commerce**

Sandra Brandt, Director, **International Platform for Insetting**

Hadley Archer, Executive Director, **Nature United**

Stefania Avanzini, Director, **OP2B**

Sylvie Gillet, Head of Development and Biodiversity, **ORÉE**

Halla Tómasdóttir, CEO, **The B Team**

Linda Krueger, Director, Biodiversity and Infrastructure Policy, **The Nature Conservancy**

Wei Dong Zhou, Director, **World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**,
China

Akanksha Khatri, Head, Nature and Biodiversity, **World Economic Forum**

Marco Lambertini, Director General, **WWF-International**

Dora María Moncada Rasmussen, Director, **Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (ANDI)**