



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

31 January 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter dated 30 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 leading the preparatory process, including on the modalities for the Summit on Biodiversity as per General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/221.

Also attached is the revised draft of the modalities for the Summit, which will be considered at the third informal consultation on the aforementioned subject, at 10 a.m. on Friday, 7 February 2020, 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, cursive script.

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

31 January, 2020

Excellency,

Thank you once again for the constructive engagement of your delegation during the first reading of the zero on draft on 28 January 2020, in which your comments and proposals in reaction to the text were well received.

Continuing with our earnest attempt to reflect the expressed positions as accurately as possible, we have included in this second draft the options that were indicated as most preferred by the Membership with regards to the date of the Summit and included also new formulations for the panels of the Leader's Dialogues as well as some changes on the aspects related to the structure of the event to accommodate the ideas presented during the discussion.

We look forward to your contributions and further discussion during the third informal consultations that will take place on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 2020, at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

We reiterate our willingness and openness to receive your comments also in writing through the e-mail address provided by our Secretariat: [environmentny@un.org](mailto:environmentny@un.org) and 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 its resolutions 73/234 of 20 December 2018 and 74/221 of 19 December 2019 and its decision to convene a summit on biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government, within existing resources, before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in 2020, in order to highlight the urgency of action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, “Living in harmony with nature”; (exact language from OP11 from 74/221 and OP6 of 73/324)

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  
[*Option 1*: the first day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on the second day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.]  
[*Option 2*: the third day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.];  
(based on OP1 from A/RES/72/268)
2. *Also decides* that the Summit will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, three Leaders’ Dialogues and a brief closing segment and that the overall theme of the Summit will be “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development: Urgent Action for the Future We Want”; (based on OP1 &2 from A/RES/72/268)

3. Further decides that:
  - (a) The opening segment, to be held from [*Option 1*: 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. on the first day] [*Option 2*: 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. on the third day] of the general debate, 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, one of which should be a representative of indigenous peoples and local communities, 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 [*Option 1*: 3:30 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. on the first day of the general debate] [*Option 2*: 10:30 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. on the third 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 [*Option 1*: on the second day of the general debate] [*Option 2*: on the third 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) Three consecutive Leaders' Dialogues of 55 minutes each will start at [*Option 1*: 10:00 a.m. and will end at 12:45 p.m. of the second day of the general debate] [*Option 2*: 3:00 p.m. and will end at 5:45 p.m.];
  - (b) The Leaders' Dialogues will address the following themes:
    - Dialogue 1: Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Placing Nature at the heart of sustainable development
    - Dialogue 2: Science and innovation: transforming our relationship with Nature.
    - Dialogue 3: Mobilising resources and enhancing partnerships: building bridges for a just transition

- (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, representatives of relevant United Nations entities including the Secretariats of the Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions, civil society, private sector, including the financial sector, academia, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities to serve as speakers on the Leaders' Dialogues, taking into account gender balance, 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 basis <sup>1</sup>; (based on OP12 from A/RES/72/268)

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

10. Invites the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General and the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, 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;
12. Encourages Member States to consider including in their national delegations representatives such as parliamentarians, local governments, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, community organizations, faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, youth and the private sector, with due regard to gender balance; (based on OP14 from A/RES/72/268)
- 12bis. Encourages the President of the General Assembly and all relevant UN entities to give highest visibility to the Summit through all relevant media platforms and information and communications technologies (based on OP12 from A/RES/73/340)
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)