13 March 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a letter dated 13 March 2020, from H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledón, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, and H.E. Ms. Mariangela Zappia, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, the co-facilitators overseeing the preparatory process, including on the modalities of the Summit on Biodiversity as per General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/221.

The aforementioned letter transmits the final draft of the modalities of the Summit on Biodiversity, which will be placed under silence procedure, effective from Thursday, 19 March at 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 23 March 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the co-facilitators for their work and leadership in executing this mandate, as well as to all delegations for their constructive engagement throughout the process.

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

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York
13 March, 2020

Excellency,

We are writing in our capacity as co-facilitators of the resolution on the modalities of the Summit on Bio-diversity.

Following yesterday’s meeting with the President of the General Assembly on further precautions to be adopted with regard to COVID-19 and considering the very advanced state of our negotiating process, we have come to the conclusion that no further consultation meetings should be convened in order not to expose the delegates to any unnecessary risks.

Thanks to the constructive engagement of all delegations, we have been able over the last weeks to deepen and further review the major residual standing points concerning: the date of the Summit; the articulation of its opening segment; the formula of participation; the number of the Leaders’ Dialogues and their respective themes; the outcome of the Summit.

We have elaborated, therefore, a revised draft resolution, which, in our view, takes into account, in a balanced manner, all positions and sensitivities. We are truly convinced that this represents the best option for a consensual outcome of the process. In line with our inclusive approach and in the spirit of transparency, we have consequently decided to place the attached draft resolution under a silence procedure, which - considering the mandated timeframe established by resolution A/RES/74/221 - will start Thursday, March 19, at 10:00 a.m. and will end on Monday, March 23, at 10:00 a.m.

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All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York
Given the current extraordinary circumstances, we trust in the understanding and sense of responsibility of the entire membership. We take this opportunity to renew our thanks to all delegations for their constructive engagement during the consultation 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
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;

Also 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”; (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 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.; (based on OP1 from A/RES/72/268)

2. Further decides that the Summit and its preparatory process shall provide for the effective participation of all States members of the United nations, all members of the UN specialized agencies, and all parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

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

4. Further decides that:
(a) The opening segment, to be held from 3:00 to 3:50 p.m. on the first day of the general debate, will include the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, the Secretary-General, the President of ECOSOC, the host of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the host of the 15th meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as well as an eminent champion on biodiversity and a youth 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 the end of the opening segment and end at 6 p.m. on the first day of the general debate and will comprise statements by States Members of the United Nations, members of the UN specialized agencies, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and observers of the General Assembly and the time limits for these statements, strictly observed, 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) Delegations will have only one opportunity to speak in the Summit, either in the plenary segment or in one of the Leaders’ Dialogues;

(d) 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)

5. Also decides that the organizational arrangements for the Leaders’ Dialogues will be as follows:

(a) Two consecutive Leaders’ Dialogues of 75 minutes each will start at 10:00 a.m. of the second day of the general debate;

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

Dialogue 1: Addressing biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development;

Dialogue 2: Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity;

(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, with adequate regional representation; (based on OP4(c) from A/RES/72/268)

(d) The time limit for interventions in the Leaders’ Dialogue will be three minutes, strictly observed;
(e) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities as well as intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), the Secretariats of the Rio and 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)

6. **Invites** all observers of the General Assembly to participate at the Summit at the highest possible level; (based on OP9 from A/RES/72/268)

7. **Also invites** non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council with relevant expertise to register with the Secretariat to attend the Summit; (based on OP11 from A/RES/72/268)

8. **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, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth 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 1; (based on OP12 from A/RES/72/268)

9. **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, to highlight the need to support a post-2020 global biodiversity frameworks and urges them to consider initiatives, including through the UN Environment Management Group, 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)

10. **Encourages** participation in the Summit at the highest possible level and the inclusion in delegations of representatives of parliamentary institutions, 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)

11. **Further encourages** all participants to demonstrate ambition to accelerate action on biodiversity for sustainable development;

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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. Decides that the proceedings of the Summit shall be webcasted and encourages the President of the General Assembly, the United Nations Secretary General and all relevant UN entities to give highest visibility to the Summit, including during its preparation 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 to prepare, before the opening of the 15th meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a factual summary to reflect the discussions of the Summit held 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”; (based on OP13 of A/RES/73/340 and on OP20 of A/RES/70/299)

14. Also request the President of the General Assembly to bring the summary of the Summit to the attention of all participants, as well as all relevant United Nations entities, the Secretariats of the Rio and biodiversity-related conventions and all other relevant stakeholders; (based on OP13 from A/RES/73/340)

15. Further requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Summit. (based on OP15 from A/RES/72/268)