

Business for Nature CBD OEWG Statement

Closing Plenary

29 March 2022

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair

My name is Eva Zabey. I am the Executive Director of Business for Nature.

I am making this statement on behalf of our coalition which includes partners like the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, World Economic Forum and the International Chamber of Commerce. We would like to thank the CBD secretariat, the Presidency, the co-chairs and co leads for creating the space to listen to the views and perspectives of observers, including business.

Did you know that during the past two and a half weeks, representatives from over 35 businesses were here in Geneva to follow and support the negotiations. Why?

Because all of us rely on a healthy planet; all economic activity relies on nature, yet nature is at a tipping point.

Leading businesses are asking you to be ambitious. More than 1,000 companies are calling on governments to adopt policies now to reverse nature loss by 2030.

There is clearly a lot of energy, enthusiasm and stamina in this room. But the negotiations so far have not reflected the right level of ambition. They have not reflected the sense of urgency that science demands.

Leading businesses are asking you to use the GBF to send a clear signal that Business-as-usual is over.

Voluntary actions by business are not enough.

You, as government leaders, have the power and responsibility to re-set the rules. A regulatory framework and enabling environment is necessary to scale-up and speed-up business action now.

What can you do in the GBF?

1. Adopt a mission that sets the direction for everyone to work towards “halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 for a nature-positive world”.
2. Adopt a Target 15 that includes mandatory requirements for business to assess and disclose their impacts and dependencies on nature, and incentivizes them to reduce their negative impacts by 50% across operations AND value chains.
3. Adopt a Target 18 that commits to reforming all environmentally-harmful subsidies. Governments must stop unintentionally financing harmful practices and instead implement positive incentives for nature.

An increasing number of companies are committed to show leadership on nature because they know it is good for the planet, good for people and good for business. It's time to transform the regulatory and financial systems to recognize our shared accountability and responsibility to achieve a nature-positive world.

Thank you, Mr. Co-chair