COP17 YEREVAN ARMENIA 19-30 OCTOBER 2026 | TAKING ACTION FOR NATURE

CBD COP17 Joint Declaration to Accelerate Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through effective use of Rio Conventions Synergies

We, the Presidencies of UNCBD COP17 (Armenia), UNFCCC COP31 (Türkiye), UNCCD COP17 (Mongolia), and UNCCD COP18 (Egypt):



Recognize that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification, land degradation, drought, pollution and the deterioration of ocean, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are interconnected and mutually reinforcing crises, posing significant threats for our countries and societies. Science warns us that we only have a small and rapidly closing window to act. Fragmented and siloed responses are insufficient, costly, and increase trade-offs, while coherent and systemic action can deliver multiple benefits across biodiversity, climate, land, water, food, health and sustainable development;

Highlight that integrated approaches to the restoration and sustainable land management, provide important opportunities to generate synergies across the three Rio Conventions by contributing to land degradation neutrality, strengthening drought preparedness and resilience, conserving biodiversity, supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation, enhancing food security and safeguarding livelihoods;

Acknowledge our collective responsibility to deliver on commitments already undertaken. With only four years remaining to achieve the 2030 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and delivery on the objectives of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, including land degradation neutrality and drought resilience, and to advance implementation of the Paris Agreement, we must accelerate action, mobilize adequate means of implementation and deliver measurable results;

Underline the need for acting on the findings of the first Global Report of collective progress in implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which recognizes that action across all 23 targets but finds that implementation is not yet occurring at the pace and scale required; fewer than half of the aligned national targets assessed by Parties are currently on track, with significant gaps in resource mobilization, reform of harmful incentives, sustainable consumption, business action, and inclusive governance;

Acknowledge importance of the Yerevan Declaration – Taking Action for Nature, delivered on 16 October 2026 at the conclusion of the Leaders for Nature Summit, which emphasizes the importance of maximizing synergies and improving policy coherence among the Rio Conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements and the wider United Nations system in support of more effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and associated environmental commitments;

Recognize that closing these gaps requires greater cooperation and policy coherence among the three Rio Conventions, while respecting their distinct mandates, principles and governance arrangements, for enhancing policy coherence and cooperation at all levels, and aligning institutions, national planning instruments, implementation efforts, finance and knowledge to avoid duplication, use resources more efficiently, develop joint strategies and actions, on biodiversity, climate and land objectives together and avoid harmful trade-offs and scale solutions;

Emphasize that translating Rio synergies into practical, country-led action requires strengthening coherence across national policies, plans and investments, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, building on existing implementation efforts, and promoting coordination among the three Rio Convention national focal points, relevant ministries, local authorities and stakeholders, as appropriate, while enhancing alignment among NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs and national land degradation neutrality targets to deliver mutually reinforcing outcomes for climate, biodiversity and land;

Further recognize that Parties cannot implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the objectives of the three Rio Conventions alone. Actors other than national Governments submitted commitments or reported action on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through the mechanism established under the CBD review process. Actions mobilized through the climate and land Action Agendas also contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework and Rio Conventions synergies, particularly through nature-based solutions, restoration and ecosystem-based approaches. These contributions demonstrate the importance of a whole of society approach that recognizes, coordinates and supports the actions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, subnational governments, cities, civil society, women, youth, academia, private sector, financial institutions and other relevant sectors;

Welcome the leadership of the UNCBD COP17 Presidency of the Republic of Armenia in initiating the CBD COP17 Joint Declaration to Accelerate Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through Effective Use of Rio Conventions Synergies, and the launch of the Yerevan Declaration – Taking Action for Nature, which emphasizes the importance of maximizing synergies and improving policy coherence among the Rio Conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements and the wider United Nations system in support of more effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and associated environmental commitments;

Welcome the leadership of the UNFCCC COP31 Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye in elevating Rio Conventions synergies as a priority of its Action Agenda, and the launch of the Rio Synergies Group for Action at UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, as a significant step towards strengthening political momentum and accelerating voluntary, country-led implementation across the three Rio Conventions;

Welcome the leadership of the UNCCD COP17 of Mongolia in providing the first high-level opportunity of the 2026 Triple COP Year, and the first COP following the adoption of the Belém Joint Statement on the Rio Conventions, to translate political momentum for Rio Convention synergies into practical, voluntary and country-led implementation; and recognize the potential of the Steppe Action Agenda, built on the principles of Rio Convention synergies, landscape-level planning, investment and finance, and equitable participation, to carry this momentum forward as an enduring contribution of UNCCD COP17;

Also welcome the progress achieved voluntary cooperative initiatives to strengthen collaboration among the three Rio Conventions, including the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People, the Rio Trio Initiative and the Belém Joint Statement on the Rio Conventions launched at COP30, as complementary efforts supporting coherent and effective implementation. These initiatives, and processes provide a foundation for supporting country-led implementation, connecting national priorities and implementation needs with existing expertise, partnerships and financing opportunities, and accelerating delivery of the objectives of all three Rio Conventions. Strengthening their cooperation should improve the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the existing implementation mechanism and accelerate delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the objectives of all three Rio Conventions.

Our shared vision

Our shared vision is to accelerate the effective and coherent implementation of the objectives of all three Rio Conventions, including the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity in a balanced and coherent manner, in concert with related objectives under the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification and its 2018-2030 Strategic Framework including its objective of achieving land degradation neutrality and strengthening drought resilience, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. We encourage all Parties and stakeholders, secretariats of the relevant conventions, international institutions to advance it through coherent and mutually reinforcing implementation of the three Rio Conventions, ensuring that action for biodiversity, climate and land contributes to the common vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050.

We express our shared determination to carry forward the political momentum on this practical agenda taking over from Ulaanbaatar in Yerevan to pass over to Antalya, through the next cycle of COPs and towards 2030, with a focus on helping countries translate Rio synergies into practical country-led implementation, building on their national priorities, existing commitments and ongoing efforts, and strengthening cooperation with organizations and partners.We call for elevating Rio Convention synergies higher on the political agenda, providing opportunities for Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders to engage and contribute in an open, inclusive, transparent, balanced and participatory manner.

We invite other Governments and stakeholders to support the implementation of this Declaration through ambitious, credible, transparent, sustained and accountable action, and encourage supporting organizations and initiatives to contribute technical expertise, capacity-building, knowledge exchange and access to financing opportunities, within their existing mandates and available resources. In particular, we invite interested countries to join the Rio Synergies Group for Action, initiated by COP31 Presidency, by identifying at least one nationally determined flagship action that reflects their national priorities and advances integrated implementation across climate, biodiversity and land.

Adopted at Yerevan, on 28 October 2026
Endorsing Presidencies: Presidencies of UNCBD COP17 (Armenia), UNFCCC COP31 (Türkiye), UNCCD COP17 (Mongolia), and UNCCD COP18 (Egypt)