

Summit on Biodiversity on 30 September 2020 – Leaders’ Dialogue 2: Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity

statement of Prime Minister Andrej Babiš on behalf of the Czech Republic

Mr. President, Excellencies, dear colleagues,

For several decades now, we have been learning our lesson that any short-term benefit that people can get from harming nature cannot last in the long-term. Facts provided to us by science are clear, the 2019 IPBES global assessment report confirmed that biodiversity and ecosystem services continue deteriorating worldwide at unprecedented rate and we can already experience the impacts. The Global Sustainable Development Report 2020 stresses that the costs of further inaction will significantly rise. Thus, this summit has to communicate a strong and clear message that we take science seriously and that there is no sustainable future unless we duly consider the importance of biodiversity and find effective ways to address both direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss.

In this regard, the Czech Republic welcomes the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 as the world’s most ambitious plan to protect and restore nature that will also support a green recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. Next, we are committed to achieve the adoption of an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework. To successfully implement the new biodiversity framework, we need to be able to assess our progress. Therefore, we see a scientifically sound approach to monitoring and a robust set of indicators agreed by all Parties as crucial elements of this global biodiversity framework that will help us make more informed decisions and take better targeted actions. We should also strive for a stronger mechanism for implementation and review process to bring the ambition of the framework to life.

As for the Czech Republic, we are facing similar challenges as other countries and still need to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Through the implementation of the recently adopted action plan to our national biodiversity strategy, we will aim for example at more active involvement of relevant stakeholders in biodiversity protection, including through better education and transfer of knowledge, or at strengthening biodiversity data collection for improved science-based decision-making. Similarly, we are committed to support enhanced action on global level.

If we all join our efforts and build our future together, in 2030, when we look back at the last decade and the results of our work, we will be able to say: “this time, we have actually made a difference.”

Thank you for your attention.