

FAQ Document COP15 Statement from the Private Financial Sector

The purpose of this FAQ document is to support financial institutions' understanding of the COP15 Statement from the Private Financial Sector. This FAQ document also provides context on the global biodiversity crisis and its threat to humanity. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Romie Goedicke, at UNEP FI's nature team at romie.goedicke@un.org, Anita de Horde at the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation at info@financeforbiodiversity.org, or Sylvaine Rols at the PRI, at sylvaine.rols@unpri.org.

The statement signatory form can be found here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5023646>

Logistics

1) Who can sign the statement?

All financial institutions can sign-on, including asset managers, asset owners, and banks. We also allow signature from supporting institutions such as industry associations, and other initiatives, as part of a targeted campaign to encourage their members to join.

2) When is the deadline to sign-on to the Investor Statement and how do I sign-on?

The deadline is December 9th, 2022 EOD. Please sign here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5023646>. If you have any issues using the form, please send your information directly to Bethany Davies at the PRI, bethany.davies@unpri.org

3) How will the statement be released?

We will be making a first announcement, directly to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as part of the Open-Ended Working Group meetings (3rd-5th of December) with the current number of signatures and associated AUM at that point. The announcement of the final number of signatures and associated AUM will be made as an exclusive in a media outlet on Tuesday 13th of December, the day before the official CBD Finance Day at COP15.

4) Will the statement be delivered to an appropriate party at the COP15?

We will deliver the statement to the co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group, who are negotiating the content of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We are also looking at possibilities of sharing the statement with world leaders before COP15.

5) Can I share this opportunity with other industry peers?

Yes, please share this opportunity with other private financial institutions in your network by forwarding them the statement and this FAQ document.

6) Will signing this Statement commit me to anything now or in the future?

Signing this statement expresses your support for an ambitious and action-oriented post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The statement emphasizes the urgency for all stakeholder support and action, especially governments, financial institutions and corporations. By signing this statement, your organization commits to contributing to global efforts in protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems.

7) Will there be a follow up to the sign-on of the statement?

UNEP FI, Finance for Biodiversity Foundation and PRI will continue to coordinate where possible, in addition to working towards their own specific goals and objectives. Please reach out to the respective organization for more details.

8) How is this work connected to Finance Day on 14 December?

Finance day which is organized by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the statement partners – UNEP FI, PRI and Finance for Biodiversity, as well as other partners. It will provide a forum for dialogue between organizations from across the financial landscape, that are not involved in the policy negotiation at COP15. One objective of this event is to share perspectives, lessons learnt, idea and solutions on the nexus of finance and biodiversity, and align ambition from across the financial sector with regards to the expected content of the GBF and its subsequent implementation. An outcome of this day will be a 'call to action' from the participants, to be subsequently published and made available for endorsement. This call to action is being developed in consultation with event organization partners and will be made available for endorsement by organisations in the private and public financial space. This call to action will be complementary and supportive to this statement.

9) Does signing this statement mean that my organization commits to joining the initiatives mentioned in the statement text?

In the statement text we reference:

- the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge, the Financial Sector Commitment Letter on Eliminating Commodity-Driven Deforestation, the Principles for Responsible Banking Signatories' target-setting on biodiversity, the work of the Principles for Sustainable Insurance in tackling biodiversity loss and championing nature-positive insurance, and efforts to align debt issuance with sustainability goals and create markets for sovereign debt that support governments to cut emissions and protect biodiversity. Further efforts such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) are driven by our core fiduciary duties and the need to transition to a nature-positive economy, where economic activities not only minimize impact but also enhance ecosystems and support the resilience of our planet and our societies.

Signing this statement does not mean your organization is joining these initiatives. The above paragraph is only added to provide a context to this statement, by highlighting relevant developments.

Context

1) What is the expected outcome of the COP15 Biodiversity Summit?

The expected outcome of the COP15 Biodiversity Summit is a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The framework aims to “galvanize urgent and transformative action by governments and all of society” in order to halt activities that exacerbate biodiversity and create an environment where our natural ecosystems can recover, with net improvements by 2050. The current draft of the framework outlines 21 action-oriented targets, which if achieved by 2030, will enable the environmental conditions necessary for nature to recover. The overall vision is to live in harmony with nature by 2050, meaning that by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and widely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

2) Why is it important for financial institutions to demonstrate support for a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework?

Healthy ecosystems are the foundations to societies and economies. Biodiversity, an indicator for ecosystem health, therefore, needs to be protected and restored to prevent whole ecosystems from collapsing. Biodiversity loss poses a variety of risks and as a financial institution, you have a fiduciary duty requiring prudence of care. Demonstrating your support for a framework aimed to combat biodiversity loss will signal to governments, corporations, and your beneficiaries/clients that this is a pertinent risk that you plan to acknowledge through your investment decision-making processes.

3) How can I learn more on the process of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), COP15 and the Global Biodiversity Framework?

The Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, together with the secretariat of the CBD, UN PRI, UNEPFI and Business for Nature, developed a Financial Sector Guide on the CBD COP15 process for investors. This guide fits into the broader engagement process that the CBD Secretariat is currently organizing, which will outline how the global finance sector can contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2050 vision, as well as priority actions needed for implementation.

4) What are financial institutions doing to commit to the realization of the GBF?

The need for action by the sector is mentioned in the statement:

- We commit to working within our own organizations to support the effective alignment of the vision proposed in the draft post-2020 GBF of “Living in harmony with Nature” by 2050; for example, through incorporating nature and biodiversity into our investment decision-making processes, seeking appropriate disclosure from investees on nature-related issues, and engaging in collaborative initiatives to further our efforts.

We expect organizations signing this statement to take steps to incorporate this in their organizations.

Scope

1) How do the expectations outlined in the statement align with other frameworks and guidance, such as that of the Taskforce on Nature Related Disclosures (TNFD)?

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures is in the process of developing a framework for non-financial companies and financial institutions to report and act on evolving nature-related risks. In preparation for TNFD's guidance, we are urging companies to start assessing their value chains to determine how they are impacting and depending on nature. Once TNFD releases their final guidance, expected in September 2023, companies including financial institutions will already be equipped to report and act on their nature-related risks based on TNFD's framework.

2) What is the difference between this statement and the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge?

This statement refers to governments and the Global Biodiversity Framework. It is not a concrete commitment for financial institutions like the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge in which signatories commit to protect and restore biodiversity through their finance activities and investments by collaboration and share knowledge, engaging with companies, assessing impact, setting targets and report publicly by 2024 the latest. We encourage existing signatories of the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge to sign this statement to showcase their continued support.

3) Is this statement coordinated with NGO groups?

No, this statement is a coordinated effort between only UNEP FI, Finance for Biodiversity Pledge Foundation and the PRI.

4) Why is there no financial amount linked to this statement?

This statement is addressed to the negotiators at COP 15 and relates to the wish of the global financial sector for an ambitious GBF and their ambition to support its realization.

This statement is not connected to any philanthropic initiatives to support the GBF and its realization.