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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**  
Celebrating International Biodiversity Day 2024: “Be part of the Plan”  
Online, 22 May 2024

## INFORMATION NOTE

### 1. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) launched a Multi-stakeholder Platform for Protecting Biodiversity in 2023 within the scope of the Climate Resilience through Regional Cooperation for Inclusive Sustainable Development project supported by the Government of Sweden. The platform fosters regional engagement for project preparation aimed at mobilizing finance for biodiversity conservation within the broader framework of enhancing climate resilience in the Arab region. It focuses on three thematic areas of importance for the Arab region: (a) Nature-based solutions for climate resilience; (b) Land degradation in arid agricultural ecosystems; and (c) Renewable energy and biodiversity. Each theme is supported by a working group comprising approximately fifteen institutional members from the Arab region, with each group led by a reputable institution in the region that serves as the working group convener. The convenors and members collaborate to prepare joint project concept notes and proposals to mobilize finance for biodiversity and enhance climate resilience.

The International Day for Biodiversity, celebrated annually on 22 May, this year adopts the theme “Be part of the Plan” calling upon stakeholders to take action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Multi-stakeholder Platform for Protecting Biodiversity responds to this year’s theme by fostering collaboration between national and regional stakeholders in the Arab region to address priority issues and mobilize action by moving from planning to projectization to finance for biodiversity conservation under a changing climate.

ESCWA is hosting a two-hour virtual meeting on 22 May 2024 to celebrate the International Day for Biodiversity. The meeting brings together the convenors of the working groups to discuss the platform's role and its working groups in engaging stakeholders including governments, private sector, financing institutions, civil society, NGOs, and international organizations.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this virtual meeting are to:

- Celebrate the International Day for Biodiversity and raise awareness about biodiversity conservation in the Arab region;
- Discuss the role and functions of the Multi-stakeholder Platform for Protecting Biodiversity;
- Facilitate exchange among working group convenors on fostering stakeholder engagement in biodiversity conservation.

### 3. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting gathers convenors of the three working groups under the Multi-stakeholder Platform for Protecting Biodiversity, ESCWA experts in the three thematic areas, and external counterparts and specialists engaged in project preparation.

#### 4. AGENDA

The two-hour meeting will be held on 22 May 2024 from 2 to 4 pm Beirut time (GMT+3) on MS Teams. The meeting will be organized as follows:

- Opening remarks
- Introductions
- Overview of the Multi-stakeholder Platform for Protecting Biodiversity, including its thematic areas of focus, work modalities and role in fostering stakeholder engagement to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the Arab region;
- Exchange with convenors regarding their vision and plans on engaging working group members in priority-setting, planning and preparing project concept notes on priority issues that impact biodiversity in the region under a changing climate;
- Consensus-building on next steps on the call to action for planning forward the work of the platform, in alignment with the theme of the International Day for Biodiversity 2024.

#### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

Kindly contact either of the following focal points with any queries regarding this meeting:

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