

## CONCEPT NOTE

### **BIODIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EXPO** **Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity** **Cali, Colombia**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat), in collaboration with the host government and partner organizations, is organizing a Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo in the margins of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16), to take place from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia.

#### **I. CONTEXT**

The [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (also known as the Biodiversity Plan) sets out an ambitious pathway to a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Target 20 of the Framework recognizes that capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation are crucial for enhancing the abilities, resilience and effectiveness of individuals, institutions and systems at various levels for improved biodiversity-related decision-making, action and outcomes.

*“Without innovation, there is no way we can overcome the challenges of our times. What is important [...] is to make sure that innovation works for all, and not only for a few.”*

**António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General**

Cutting-edge technologies and innovations hold unprecedented promise of expanding the boundaries of what is possible to achieve in terms of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable development. If harnessed in an appropriate and sustainable manner, technologies and innovations could be instrumental in supporting transformational change on the ground.

*“In order to be able to achieve the transformation from unsustainable patterns of development to sustainable ones, a combination of technological and social innovation is necessary.”*

**María Susana Muhamad González, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia**

Drawing on the experiences and lessons learned from other innovation-focused initiatives within the UN system, and building on the pilot Innovation and Solutions Fair 2018 held at COP 14 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo will showcase technologies and innovations that could be leveraged to address key biodiversity challenges and support the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan.

#### **II. BIODIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EXPO**

##### **A. Objectives**

The main objectives of the Expo will be to:

1. Showcase state-of-the-art technologies and innovative solutions relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including indigenous and traditional technologies, and gender-inclusive innovations.
2. Promote technology and innovation opportunities that could support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and the Biodiversity Plan; and
3. Facilitate networking among participants and foster strategic partnerships for the development and/or deployment of new technologies and tools.

## B. Outcomes

It is expected that, as a result of the Expo:

1. Delegates will be better informed about technologies and innovations that may offer solutions to their specific issues and challenges and explore possibilities of accessing and deploying them in their respective countries or communities.
2. Delegates will understand and appreciate the potential of technology and innovation in supporting the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan.
3. Exhibitors and delegates will share experiences and lessons learned regarding the application of those technologies and innovations for biodiversity.

## C. Exhibition Booths

The Expo will provide a dedicated exhibition space for exhibitors from public and private sector entities, academic and research institutions, not-for-profit organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and young entrepreneurs and innovators to showcase state-of-the-art technologies and innovative solutions relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The space will be divided into five (5) booths of 3m x 3m, each fitted with:

- Partition walls;
- Lighting and two power sockets;
- One table and two chairs; and
- Access to Internet Wi-Fi.

Each booth will be allocated free of charge to selected exhibitors for three days. This will allow up to a total of 20 exhibitors over the two-week period of COP 16. The rotations will be as follows:

- *Rotation 1:* 21 to 23 October
- *Rotation 2:* 24 to 26 October
- *Rotation 3:* 27 to 29 October
- *Rotation 4:* 30 October to 1 November 2024

Bilingual personnel (English and Spanish) will be available on-site to assist the exhibitors and audience with information, guidance, and problem-solving.

**Side events:** Expo exhibitors may wish to organize side events or to participate in relevant side events organized by other partners, particularly those related to science, technology, and innovation. The side events, which may be in the form of panel discussions, round tables or TED talk-type events, would provide valuable opportunities for Expo exhibitors to share their experiences, perspectives and lessons learned regarding the application of technology and innovation for biodiversity. Further information about side events will be provided by the Secretariat in due course.

## D. Criteria

The criteria to be considered when selecting the exhibitors include:

1. *Relevance for biodiversity:* Selected exhibitors will present solutions that explicitly support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and the Biodiversity Plan.
2. *Diversity of exhibitors:* It is expected that the exhibitors will come from public and private sector entities, academic and research institutions, not-for-profit organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and young entrepreneurs and innovators.

3. *Innovations and technologies at different stages of development:* The Expo will include technologies and solutions that are already being used widely as well as prototypes under development and showing great potential.
4. *Accessibility and scalability:* Priority will be given to technologies and solutions that are low cost and easy to implement, and adaptable to various environments.
5. *Geographical balance:* Exhibitors will come from both developing and developed countries.
6. *Self-sponsorship:* Although exhibition booths will be provided free of charge, exhibitors will be expected to cover the costs of their travel and subsistence in Colombia.
7. *Eligibility for accreditation as observer:* Selected exhibitors will be required to apply for accreditation as observers to meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and register as participant to COP 16.

### **E. Terms and Conditions**

Exhibition spaces will be allocated once the overall demand has been assessed based on the criteria above. The application for exhibition space, when and if accepted by the Secretariat, shall constitute a contract between the exhibitor and the Secretariat. The contract includes the terms and conditions specified below:

1. The number of free exhibition spaces is limited and will be allocated according to a selection process based on the criteria outlined above.
2. The Secretariat will honour location requests but reserves the right, if necessary, to amend and modify up to and including the day of the Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo.
3. The Secretariat reserves the right to remove, decline, or prohibit any exhibit which, in its opinion, is not suitable to or in keeping with the objectives and/or character of the Expo.

The exhibitor shall:

1. Refrain from selling or buying any materials, wares, or any other items to and from a visitor or any other exhibitor throughout the duration of the Expo;
2. Indemnify and save the Secretariat harmless from and against claims, actions, losses, damages, expenses and costs whatsoever made by any person arising out of the ownership, handling and use of techniques and technological products exhibited at the Expo;
3. Ensure that none of the techniques and technological products exposed or demonstrated poses a threat to safety and security; and does not create unacceptable level of noise and odour, if applicable; and
4. Refrain from any conduct or message that would detract from the image of integrity or professionalism of the Secretariat and shall not engage in any activity which is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations for the duration of the Expo.

### **F. Information for Exhibitors**

Individuals or organizations that are interested in participating in the Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo are invited to fill out the application form available at the following link: <https://www.cbd.int/tsc/applicationexpo> as soon as possible but no later than **4 August 2024**.

Information regarding venue, registration, visa, and other matters will be communicated to selected exhibitors and be made available on CBD's website in due course.