

Summary

Biodiversity Key issue for sustainable development

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Conference summary

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Mr. Bernard MIYET, President of the French Association for the United Nations (AFNU), opened this conference by placing it in an international context that reflects the importance of the environmental dimension in the concept of human security. Having recalled the presentation of the Millennium Goals at the international summit organised in 2000 by Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, which were succeeded by the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, The President placed the symposium organised by the AFNU in a sequence marked by the World Conservation Congress held in September 2021 in Marseille at the initiative of IUCN, the COP26 of the United Nations Climate Convention in Glasgow in November 2021, and a few months before the COP15 of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in China in May 2022. Mr. MIYET recalled that the *raison d'être* of the AFNU is to promote the values, principles and goals of the United Nations Charter in three interrelated areas, namely international peace and security, human rights and global issues, of which environmental protection is the most important. In this respect, the AFNU has a duty to promote awareness, reflections and actions at the global level through the three major Framework Conventions on Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity, adopted following the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco began his message by emphasising that biodiversity is still a neglected issue, even though it is vital for the planet. Based on the scientific data of the IPBES, he evoked the challenge represented by the sixth wave of species extinction, in parallel with the energy transition that is imposed on all, recognising that a feeling of powerlessness prevails in the face of the difficulty of addressing these issues through concrete actions. He underlines that, however, solutions exist and gives several concrete examples, such as measures to reduce pollution of all kinds, the establishment of protection zones, the reintroduction of threatened species, etc. Civil society, international bodies and economic actors must mobilise to ensure the future of species and ecosystems that are essential to the future of humanity and the planet.

Ms. Bérangère ABBA, Secretary of State for Biodiversity, affirms France's commitment to curb the loss of biodiversity, and recalls that the French government is already preparing its National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 by consulting stakeholders and territories. The IPCC and IPBES reports the need for ambitious collective action. Therefore, Ms. ABBA, who is also Vice President of UNEA 5, insists on the urgency of mobilising all key actors for a new level of multilateral dialogue. Ms. ABBA concluded by mentioning the upcoming One Ocean Summit, a summit of solutions, innovations and shared governance, as well as the French presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2022, during which France intends to advance discussions at the European level, particularly on the fight against deforestation.

The first round table of the conference, whose discussions are moderated by Mr. Thomas FRIANG, Director General of the Institut Open Diplomacy, focuses on the following issue “What is scientists’ assessment of the state of biodiversity and natural environments at the moment? So far, scientific findings have proven that, on this December 8, World Climate Day, biodiversity, and climate issues are deeply intertwined issues at stake.

As Chief Scientist of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Dr Thomas BROOKS first highlights the fact that the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species continues to grow, warning of the irreversible impact of species extinction, caused by a wide spectrum of threats ranging from habitat loss to invasive alien species, and including pollution. It is crucial to measure the biodiversity crisis in order to find and adapt solutions in response to it. Targeting this purpose, the IUCN Red List is based on quantitative criteria to allow measurement of the risk of species extinction. These assessments, when repeated over time, make it possible to generate an indicator of changing extinction risks; this Red List Index is an official indicator for Sustainable Development Goal 15, and proposed for tracking the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Furthermore, Dr BROOKS draws attention to the need to broaden the scope of debate within society to encompass indigenous peoples and local communities, business and youth, in order for all institutions and individuals to measure their own contributions to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Sir Robert WATSON, former chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), starts by nuancing some of the thoughts set out earlier, saying that it is premature to speak of a sixth mass extinction given the statistics do not support it. Current estimates are that one million plants and animals out of a total of 8 million species are threatened with extinction, i.e., about 12%, where-as about 75% of species were lost in previous mass extinctions. He then addressed the implications of a biodiversity loss. Biodiversity provides humans with food, water, energy, medicines, regulates the climate, pollution, pests and diseases, and is culturally important, hence, maintaining healthy ecosystems is fundamental to human well-being. According to Mr. WATSON, most countries and economic actors do not take into account the social, biophysical and non-market economic values of nature's regulating and cultural services. Not only would we lose these services due to climate change and biodiversity loss, but also, we would deprive ourselves of using economic and other levers to conserve and restore biodiversity. Climate change and loss of biodiversity are moral, social, economic, development, and equity issues that are closely linked to each other and all central to current and future human development.

Furthermore climate change is causing species to lose their primary habitat, and many of them will not be able to migrate, and whole ecosystems are threatened. Mr WATSON noted that a 2°C rise in temperature would have devastating effects on marine life as we would lose 99% of warm water corals. He also noted that many protected areas are not well managed and none have been designed to be climate resilient: as a result, he calls for an overhaul of the system of protected areas.

Responding to a question from the moderator on the changes to be hopeful for, Mr WATSON argued that we need to transform our economic, financial and productive systems, and that all actors have complementary roles to play. He emphasised that it is becoming increasingly necessary to recognise the value of nature, because GDP is not a measure of sustainable economic growth, internalise externalities, embrace a circular economy, and eliminate perverse subsidies. He concluded by calling for an energy transition.

As Chair of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, Dr. Madhu RAO recognises that today's science and policy frameworks are interdependent when it comes to ensuring a cohesive global response to the million endangered species issue. She asserts that the planet's natural ecosystems must be protected and conserved, as migratory flows, biodiversity hotspots and spawning grounds depend on their health. Building on the former point, she adds that this must be done by recognising the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Draft Target 3 of the current Global Biodiversity Framework is certainly ambitious, but is aligned with other Targets in the Framework. There is need to acknowledge these linkages and to recognise that protecting nature is more than an obligation, it is an opportunity for humanity.

Biodiversity is multidimensional, hence the importance of establishing varied specific objectives. Scientists worked on various approaches and agreed on a single global standard for key biodiversity areas. Sixteen have been identified worldwide, with side effects unevenly distributed on earth. The SDGs and the indicators associated with them contribute to the cohesion of environmental policies. One of the key messages of the synthesis of the work is therefore the importance of explicit reference to safeguarding key biodiversity areas in the Post-2020 Framework, in anticipation of COP15. It appears now to be the time for focusing on articulating a multi-stakeholder coalition to achieve common goals, looking for ways to maximize synergies and harness the same indicators. All in all, this first round table has clearly highlighted that we are currently at a tipping point towards a new paradigm, at the dawn of a circular organic economy to be understood, designed, and triggered.

Also moderated by Mr. FRIANG, the second round table focuses on the issues, the expected conclusions of COP15 and the future steps to consider. Elizabeth MARUMA MREMA, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Sylvie LEMMET, Ambassador for the Environment, and MA Jun, Director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE-China) bring their respective expertise on the subject.

As reminded by Mrs. MARUMA MREMA, none of the objectives set in Aichi have been fully achieved, although some progress has been made. This can be explained in particular by the fact that the enforcement of these objectives only started about three years after their adoption, and that not all stakeholders were included in this implementation. In addition to that former element, the implementation was entrusted to governments on their own, while it was necessary for the whole of society to address this notion, including businesses, women, minorities, young people, local communities, etc...

Therefore, Ms MARUMA MREMA urges the assessment of the impact and contribution of all stakeholders to biodiversity issues, in order to act immediately and collaboratively, because human beings and nature remain fundamentally linked.

In this respect, Mr. MA Jun discusses the recent 'One Health' approach, which shows that individuals cannot ignore the health of the planet because their own safety is also at risk. This concrete initiative emphasised by the pandemic underlined the fundamental link between humans and nature and initiated a global coalition to study ecosystems and the growing risk of zoonotic consequences in the event of a pandemic.

After having insisted on the urgency to avoid other "blah blah blah summits", Mrs. MARUMA MREMA introduces the results to be expected from the incoming COP15. The first objective is to have a global framework adopted, and the second to ensure that this framework is concretely applied on the ground, in a fair way, with strong integration and responsibility that is not left to governments alone. In order to align objectives and concrete actions, a solid monitoring framework is needed, with the right tools and the right knowledge to increase the chances of successful results. She calls for the commitment of all stakeholders in a sustainable way, drawing inspiration from green business models, and insists on the need to integrate biodiversity into public and private sector decision-making processes, regulatory policies, planning and development.

On this same topic, Mr. MA Jun indicated that China has suffered badly from deforestation and through major efforts over the past 20 years, forest is gradually coming back. As the second largest economy of the world and the factory of the world, China can help check global deforestation. We have managed to build data platform to address the pollution and carbon emission in global supply chain, and we trust there are big potential for similar digital solutions that can tackle deforestation in global sourcing practice.

Mrs. MARUMA MREMA hopes that each stakeholder will benefit equally from the upsides resulting from the successes achieved, because everyone shall take advantage of this new universal framework to be created, even if it takes time.

Last but not least, Ms Sylvie LEMMET calls for a coalition to advocate for greater ambition for protected areas. After having listened to a broad range of stakeholders, the co-chairs of an open ended working group proposed a text that among other propose twenty-one targets for the next ten years. The main objective is to make the different actors understand what a new biodiversity framework would imply for them, and to make the challenges of biodiversity tangible. Indeed, setting goals and targets is an easy way to mobilize people and leaders, but it remains difficult to know how to achieve them, to agree on measures and to reverse the current trend. Given the fact that there is no equivalent to the Paris Climate Accords (a single central criterion: the 1.5°C standard) as far as biodiversity is concerned, the success of COP15 in Kunming lies in a clear agreement on the content of the selected objectives and their implementation.

This round table thus presented the reflections, hopes and expectations of the panellists in relation to the political process of great complexity that the challenges of biodiversity entail. The latter is a defining topic for the years to come. Its complexity, accentuated by the pandemic, and which comes from the great diversity of actors to be associated with the work, must be overcome in a sustainable way.

Introducing the afternoon talks, Mrs. Shereen ZORBA, who directs the Science-Policy-Business Forum of the United Nations Environment Program, speaks on the essential relationship between environmental protection, international security, and human rights. She asserts that "making peace with nature is the decisive and defining task of the 21st century". She considers that international economic and financial governance as well as international environmental multilateralism must be reimagined, restructured, and repositioned as a social condition for development. The possibilities are many, we must seize them and act now, the relationship between human rights and the environment having been at the heart of the debate since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in 1972. She concludes by saying that "the world will celebrate fifty years of environmental multilateralism in 2022 and that, rather than a moment of reckoning, it should be a new beginning, a moment of working together, in an inclusive, fair and just manner. The challenge is not only about raising ambition, but also about directing the heuristic towards more inclusive, equitable and far-reaching actions".

The afternoon discussions are moderated by the journalist Anne TEZENAS DU MONTCEL. The subject of the 3rd round table is vast and transdisciplinary as its title shows: the integration of biodiversity and nature-based solutions in policies to combat climate change and desertification, the preservation of natural terrestrial and maritime environments, and global food supply. To this end, Sébastien TREYER, Director General of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), Pierre-Henri GUIGNARD, Ambassador, Special Envoy of France for the Alliance for the Preservation of Tropical Forests, Herbert LUST, Deputy Director General of the Conservation International Foundation, Véronique ANDRIEUX, Director General of WWF France, and Stéphane HALLAIRE, President of Reforest'Action, have been invited.

Sébastien TREYER first emphasised the quality of the joint work between the IPCC and the IPBES, which is proving to be extremely structuring for the issues of convergence between climate and biodiversity. This convergence is ambitious and must respect three partially contradictory objectives. First, there is a risk that certain carbon neutrality trajectories will threaten biodiversity (negative emissions hypothesis). Second, in order to avoid having to choose between climate and biodiversity, options for managing food and energy demand must be encouraged. Finally, green deal and carbon neutrality imply the preservation of biodiversity and zero pollution, which is jointly ambitious. Based on this observation, Mr. TREYER expresses the need to reflect on profound transformations, accompanied by matching economic ambitions, hence his mention of two essential terms to ensure that the multilateral framework can influence international decisions and conventions: mainstreaming (integration of the environment into sectoral policies) and accountability (mechanisms for reviewing commitments, transparency, pressure mechanisms).

It calls for more frequent review points, to put pressure on the policies that are effectively implemented. While everyone agrees in theory on the definition of a positive food system, the UN Summit on Food Systems showed deep disagreements and strong resistance between countries and within international bodies. Structural changes must be promoted in this regard, at the national, regional and international levels.

These transformations must be based on a human rights approach. Mr. TREYER took the example of the non-aligned South between the China/USA rivalries, in the midst of which Europe is somewhat lost. Indeed, the countries of the global South are militating for a global understanding of their problems, of a specific nature, with a much more restricted access to financial markets. They point to an asymmetry in the global economic system, which must imperatively be made fairer. We are therefore arriving at a paradoxical moment of geopolitical tension, where countries that do not have the power are warning that if we continue with such asymmetry, there will be a break in the tacit agreement of multilateralism between North and South.

Mr. TREYER must recognise that at present, more political mobilisation is being exerted on climate negotiations than on those concerning biodiversity. It is impossible to copy the techniques and ambitions of the Paris Agreement on biodiversity issues. He concludes by hoping for the feasibility of the re-diversification of new models of agriculture, and takes the encouraging example of the African Great Green Wall (afforestation). However, in the short term, he remains pessimistic about the outcome of the upcoming COP15, as the Chinese presidency already seems unambitious even before the start of the debates.

As Special Envoy of France for the Alliance for the Preservation of Tropical and Rainforests, Pierre-Henri GUIGNARD recalls that preserving forests is part of the fight against global warming, for the preservation of biodiversity and the protection of human health. He adds, as an example, that the pandemic we are experiencing today is probably the result of too close of a proximity between the human and animal species, facilitated by deforestation and overpopulation. He reminds us that 80% of terrestrial biodiversity is found in forests and particularly in tropical forests, even though the Amazon has recently become a CO₂ emitter.

Mr. GUIGNARD then presented the Alliance, wanted by President Emmanuel MACRON in 2019 and announced in New York, at the opening of the United Nations General Assembly, which now includes 32 countries and the European Commission, evolves on five continents and involves actors from the forest to the consumer. The difficulty is to change the demand, to deal with the lack of cohesion and disinterest of countries. The main missions of the Alliance are to create a platform for dialogue between forest countries, consumer countries and donors; to promote sustainable value chains; to raise consumer awareness; and to set up international and regional cooperation to prevent and fight forest fires. The participation of stakeholders is essential, as forest management is an example. In France, for example, civil society has long participated in the National Strategy to Combat Deforestation, which brings together the private sector, local communities, indigenous peoples, NGOs, etc. The populations are in fact the guardians of the forest's pharmacopoeia, the forest being "a place where we are born, where we work and where we die". Thus, fighting against deforestation means working with those who live in the forest and who know it. A positive step in the consideration of the subject can be highlighted by the recent Forest pledge in Glasgow.

Herbert LUST highlights an interdependent people-climate-biodiversity triangle, oriented towards the search for funding, long-term solutions and advocacy, in partnership with local communities. The importance lies in supporting people working for protected areas, and in raising awareness about what needs to be done. Mr. LUST mentions the Amazonia Verde initiative which aims at protecting the Amazon rainforest, including Indigenous lands, hectares, and peoples. In that scope of action, working with representative groups, NGOs, governments, local populations remain key, because the ultimate goal is to support the next generation of Indigenous leaders through enhancing leadership training and communications opportunities, scientific knowledge and advocacy for the Amazon. He concludes on an optimistic note, advising to travel in such a landscape because one comes back changed.

Véronique ANDRIEUX continues in this sense with what she calls the triple nexus: climate, biodiversity and SDGs. In order to respond to these twin crises, the diplomatic negotiations underway for the COP15 CBD must define an ambitious global framework for biodiversity by 2030, accompanied by accountability mechanisms. The ecological crisis we are experiencing today is explained by intensive agricultural models based on monoculture and the financialisation of commodities. Ms. ANDRIEUX evoked three axes of mobilisation: to be science-based in order to influence the debate in a robust and constructed manner; to work to protect and restore natural environments - and this needs to be done with and by local communities; and to transform our modes of production and consumption, which requires binding legislation and regulations, for example to fight against imported deforestation. Testifying on mangrove restoration projects by WWF, Ms. ANDRIEUX said that ecosystems are nature-based solutions that can represent up to a third of climate mitigation efforts through their role as carbon sinks: grasslands, wetlands, peatlands, savannahs and forests.

Stéphane HALLAIRE, President of Reforest'Action, works for the protection, restoration and creation of forests around the world. When he mentions that forests are home to 25% of the world's population, he reminds us that humility is the first virtue and that we must act with great caution, because the margin of error is high. In this context, Stéphane HALLAIRE has grasped the importance of financing issues in order to make progress on contemporary ecological issues. Two tensions emerge here: with a sudden large-scale financing, the mass of aid is poorly distributed and most of the projects in the world do not manage to reach the critical size to access these markets; and the increase in financing attracts new actors with the risk that the projects implemented do not respect the quality standards. In addition, there are several types of financing, which meet divergent objectives with, on the one hand, minority subsidies that expect impacts, and on the other hand, important monetary flows that make financing mainstream, in a logic of mass investment.

Mr. HALLAIRE supports initiatives that marry ecosystem restoration with community development. He added that we should see the forest as the foundation of a circular bioeconomy and not as a solution to limit the damage of an economic model that is out of breath and not sustainable. Thus, in response to the need for dialogue to understand the subject, the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance, led by Prince Charles, combines well-being, ecosystem preservation and sometimes even economic development. A sustainable lever lies in the creation of a generation of reforestation entrepreneurs by helping them to create economic models with long-term impact.

The 4th round table will focus on the testimonies of committed actors from civil society on the challenges facing biodiversity. To this end, Romain TROUBLÉ, Managing Director of the Tara Foundation, Gilles VERMOT DESROCHES, Senior Vice President for Citizenship and Institutional Relations at Schneider Electric, Carine KRAUS, Director of Sustainable Development at Veolia Group, Erwan LE MÉNÉ, Co-founder and President of the start-up Ecotree and Sidney DELOURME, co-director of the start-up Cultivate, will give their testimonials.

Romain TROUBLÉ first insists on the need to understand that everyone's life depends on biodiversity, which provides vital services, hence the need to maintain habitats while benefiting from their highly resilient nature. One of the goals of the Tara Foundation is to study and bring to light the invisible biodiversity, since global biodiversity is as vital as our individual biodiversity, in our intestine or on our skin. Thus, it is necessary to understand, share and also interest people. In this sense and quoting Descartes, Mr. TROUBLÉ explains that his role also consists in sharpening critical thinking and doubt, notably through educational projects in French schools. Furthermore, as a contributor, he is pleased that the Ocean is gradually taking its place in the world's climate assessments: the preamble to the Paris Agreement mentions marine ecosystems, the IPCC's special report on the Ocean and Cryosphere, the Blue COP in Madrid also made waves in this direction, there was an Ocean Day in Glasgow, the Bonn Dialogue on Nature also promotes such exchanges and he pleads for the One Ocean Summit to make the problems linked to the Ocean no longer technical but political. In the face of this diplomatic boiling, the pressure is mounting but a real impact is not necessarily noticeable in the short term, since decisions are needed for effective global implementation. Mr. TROUBLÉ then opened the discussion on the possible themes of future debates: according to him, a crucial subject of governance remains to come, through which it would be necessary to protect certain marine currents, rather than only arbitrary zones decreed by States at sea such as the EEZs.

Gilles VERMOT DESROCHES indicates that the Schneider Electric group has received the label of the most sustainable company in 2021, according to the Corporate Knights ranking. As in many other companies, it is only recently that the company's footprint on biodiversity is being measured with an integrated global view like the carbon footprint. Measuring is already progressing. Hence the exercise carried out with CDC Biodiversity to complete the footprint, which until now has focused on the climate. He went on to give a few examples of concrete actions taken by his company, including intelligent building management solutions, particularly for high-rise buildings, which are essential for turning off the lights in business districts outside working hours, for the benefit of migratory birds, and developing the circular economy by improving traceability and promoting autonomous waste management. To go further, eleven indicators included in the Schneider Sustainability Impact encourage the implementation of good practices, such as switching to greener raw materials, including from recycling, and gradually phasing out plastic. According to Mr. VERMOT DESROCHES, it is essential to talk about nature in companies, and it is advisable to draw inspiration in this area from the methods that have proved their worth in integrating climate into the heart of company strategy. He endeavours to talk about frugality in the light of biodiversity and believes that companies should insist on themes such as citizenship and human rights, whose link with biodiversity and climate was emphasised during the symposium.

On behalf of Veolia, Carine KRAUS is developing a global ecosystemic approach for the company, based on three pillars: on the one hand, land, water and the footprint on the ground, on the other hand, waste recycling, and finally renewable energies. Quoting Antoine Frérot, CEO of Veolia, Ms. KRAUS considers that "a company is only sustainable if it is useful". On a daily basis, Veolia promotes sectoral action at its 137 sites, supervised by an ecologist. This sectoral action is complemented by a global approach that aims at a plural performance, beyond its sole economic dimension, taking into account the various stakeholders and inclusiveness. In this respect, the protection of biodiversity is a major focus for her company, whose actions have a profound impact on nature. Ms. KRAUS concludes by emphasising that "inaction is not an answer, it is never too late to try", and that finding business models that create value with biodiversity is a sustainable solution.

With the creation of Ecotree, Erwan LE MÉNÉ's idea was to reconcile economy and ecology, since a punitive approach has proven to be ineffective or even counter-productive in the past. He therefore allowed individuals and companies to become forest owners, i.e. owners of an asset that will generate value over time and replace the carbon certificates they would otherwise have had to buy to offset their activity. Ecotree's entry point is thus based on the objective of carbon neutrality of the companies: it is based on mixed and irregular sustainable forestry, forgetting clear-cutting and gathering both hardwood and softwood trees. Planting forests allows the recreation of ecosystems such as peat bogs or melliferous hedges, thus offering a multifaceted response and not based on monoculture. Mr. LE MÉNÉ also advocates providing a concrete solution through reforestation actions and the maintenance of biodiversity to embody the company's convictions.

Mr. LE MÉNÉ agreed with Mr. VERMOT DESROCHES on the subject of the traceability of carbon neutrality: this must be monitored and evaluated by indicators of potential biodiversity, but we must be aware that nature is not as square and predictable as an indicator. Finally, he mentions the main risk for forests, which are fungi: also the forests that are less attacked are those that are managed in a sustainable way, with a rich ecosystem and a sound risk management.

Sidney DELOURME closed the panel by presenting the Plantation Paris project, which works for a new conception of the city. His agro-ecological farm contributes to reinventing life and reconnecting citizens with nature, around the Gare du Nord station, above a computer centre whose heat is used to heat the greenhouse from below. He notes that, on the whole, biodiversity is intangible, under-represented in the media and far from the citizens, since the majority of them live in cities. Preserving biodiversity should not be limited to an abstract issue, and this is why Mr. DELOURME wishes to create a generalised awareness through his initiative. This awareness goes through the connection of the inhabitants with nature and their own food, and this awareness of the living also goes through the reception of the public in such spaces in town. As there are many unused spaces in the city (roofs, etc.), there is a real possibility of developing large urban farms and stopping the mineralization of everyday life in the city.

Mr. Bernard MIYET and Mrs. Shereen ZORBA jointly close this conference on biodiversity. M.MIYET underlines the legitimacy of AFNU, as part of civil society, to raise awareness of the subject of biodiversity through conferences such as this one, or even through the writing of a Blue Book, the publication of which being scheduled for 2022. Ms ZORBA concluded on the need to rethink, strengthen, and give more resources to our multilateral system to meet today's challenges. The collaboration of all actors must be transparent, effective, inclusive, and equitable, and requires better accountability, homogenisation as well as means to measure performance and environmental impacts. Along with Mr MIYET, she stresses the fact that peace, security, human rights, and the environment are generally interconnected subjects which require a fair balance between globalisation and regulation. At this point in time, NGOs and the media of Western democratic countries are not the only ones to be present in these fields: the floor is also given to other actors, whether they come from the Global South or from authoritarian countries.

Although such high and necessary ambitions may be worrisome in the face of the means that are still too weak, Mr. MIYET expressed his satisfaction with this symposium, which, beyond raising awareness, has also given rise to a lot of hope, particularly thanks to the projects, initiatives and measures presented. The President of the AFNU concluded by affirming that the interconnection between biodiversity and climate issues is unquestionable, and that mobilising all actors at all levels is essential, by evoking the butterfly effect described by Pierre RABHI.

All in all, the issue of biodiversity today calls for a multilateral, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, collaborative, and inclusive dialogue since it concerns every inhabitant of this Earth. A geopolitical issue, an issue that is sometimes not very tangible and always complex, biodiversity requires daily solutions and actions to achieve long-term and sustainable responses, based on scientific studies. From international conventions to protection and restoration, this conference highlighted the fact that it is necessary and urgent to communicate and act on the universal issue biodiversity is, as well as to harmonise commitments, all of this with respect for human rights and the mobilisation of individual and collective actors at all levels. It is a tremendous challenge to take up, but the many scientific examples and testimonies presented during the talks have proven that, if the natural balances are endangered by our multiple attacks, they are also likely to be restored if the necessary actions are taken.



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