

	<p><i>Kingdom of Belgium</i></p> <p><i>Eendracht maakt macht</i></p>	
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Committee : United Nations General Assembly  
 Agenda : The Convention of Biological diversity and its impact on sustainable development  
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*“Look closely at nature, every species is a masterpiece exquisitely adapted to the environment in which it has survived. Who are we to destroy, or even, diminish Biodiversity”*

These words of wisdom of E.O. Wilson hold true today more than ever

#### **Our Stand:**

The Kingdom of Belgium believes that the global biodiversity is under serious threat caused due to human activities like agriculture, industrialization, land and water pollution, destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats, climate change and perturbations linked to leisure and tourism.

We as a country are not delinked from this problem. As of 2000 our main problems were air, water and land pollution caused by heavy industrial activities. We face a severe problem of water scarcity, nitrogen oxide emission and poor-quality of air. A finding from a 2020 **World Air Quality Report** ranked Belgium at an abysmal 90 out of 106 countries in terms of air quality. One of the significant reasons of this poor showing is increased Nitrogen Oxide emissions from diesel cars which is substantially higher than **EURO Standards** together with the heavy amount of Industrial activity in our country. This is not all, we are also in a high-risk category when it comes to water scarcity caused by irregular precipitation leading to a risk of running out of tap water during dry periods.

With our three main geographical regions – the coastal plain in the north-west, the central plateau, and the Ardennes highlands in the south-east, it is in this region that much of the wildlife can be found, and unfortunately, it is also affected by the malaise of pollution. Therefore, preservation of biodiversity is a major challenge for us and for all the members of the honorable UN and this increasingly calls for an urgent action to implement our plan of the **Convention on Biodiversity**.

The Kingdom of Belgium is committed to a national goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35 % by 2030. Our plan covers targets for both regional and federal level. A communication campaign was launched in 2018 to:

1. Raise Awareness
2. Educate
3. Mobilize businesses to a more sustainable way of producing

We launched the '**SDG CHARTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**' to unite the Private sector, Civil society and the public sector for which more than 100 companies have signed up and in which Scientists have urged to conserve at least 30 % of our natural resources by 2030. The Belgian Federal Government intends to phase out fossil fuels for electricity generation by 2050. All sectors in Belgium reduced emissions from 2005 to 2019 which resulted in a reduction in our share of total global emissions of greenhouse gases from 2.0 % to 1.1%.

Along with this Belgium has developed a **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** which is a national science-policy interface that plays a key role in facilitating Biodiversity research and national policy, in line with EU and international commitments. We are happy to share with the honorable members of the UNGA that this action plan has been successful so far. We are committed to update it in light of the new post **2020 global biodiversity framework** and EU Biodiversity strategies.

Since 2022 is a crucial year for Biodiversity we launched the **Belgium Biodiversity Alliance** with the goal of mobilizing the whole Belgian Society in a very concrete way in the fight against the loss of biodiversity in Belgium and beyond our borders by making voluntary commitments. This Alliance also intends to bring together all those who carry out actions to protect Biodiversity. Successful efforts have been made to mobilize entrepreneurs and citizen customers to encourage the markets to shift consumption that values biodiversity.

#### **CALL FOR ACTION:**

We as an integral member of the European Union appeal to our allies and partners around the globe to move in a similar way forward when it comes to action on biodiversity and sustainable development which will facilitate implementation of **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development** (2030 Agenda) and the **Sustainable Development Goals**, importantly **SDG 14** (Life below water) and **SDG 15** (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial eco systems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation).

Your actions now would define generations in future so don't lag behind, don't fall back and miss out on an opportunity of a lifetime to change the world for the better. We, the Kingdom of Belgium, as a country pledge to extend due support, knowhow, and assistance to all those willing to join us in the fight to make the world we live in, a better place because after all as **IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN??**

**Bedankt, Merci, Danke and Thank You**

Aditya Bhambhani  
Delegate from the Kingdom of Belgium