



## DMUN Foundation

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### **Written Statement**

#### **Item 9 - Biodiversity and Agriculture**

#### **27th Session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 27) Convention on Biological Diversity**

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It is acknowledged that preserving and understanding soil biodiversity is imperative for agriculture. More specifically, the application of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) under the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity has been emphasized to support the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In this statement, we have the honour to propose specific actions to further assist Parties in implementing the plan mentioned above.

Various Parties have raised the lack of additional measures regarding soil biodiversity, as new species continue to be discovered. Consequently, knowledge gaps are hindering the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030). Moreover, the number of taxonomists has been declining, slowing the identification of species found in samples. Although advanced molecular biological methods can be used to obtain genetic codes, experts are still required to verify the organisms from which these genetic sequences originate.

A key component of soil biodiversity that has been noted is the presence of fungal species. The majority of Parties have acknowledged that national strategies and policies in this area are insufficient, particularly due to the shortage of experts. Furthermore, the limited available knowledge on fungal diversity has hindered efforts to preserve it.

To address these issues, governments could provide financial support for projects in which researchers collect data on the distribution and genomes of fungi. This would make more



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information on fungal biodiversity accessible. A reference database could also be established, enabling individuals to categorize fungi more effectively. In addition, smaller colleges and universities often do not offer courses related explicitly to fungal diversity and taxonomy; therefore, to increase the number of specialists in these fields, Parties could encourage institutions to introduce courses on this discipline.

Notably, many Parties lack a nationally coordinated approach to preserving soil diversity. Different entities, such as government agencies and university researchers, are addressing the issue independently. As a result, data aggregation remains fragmented and complex to compare. To resolve this, a standardized system for identification could be developed, utilizing potential markers such as the presence of specific organisms and overall microbial diversity. This would facilitate international monitoring of soil diversity by allowing information to be compared more easily and accurately.

Numerous Parties have supported the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030); however, several challenges persist. These include insufficient knowledge of soil biodiversity, particularly fungal diversity, and the absence of a nationally coordinated approach. Nevertheless, these obstacles can be overcome through financial support from Parties, an increased number of academic courses on taxonomy and mycology, and the establishment of standardized systems for identifying organisms in soil samples.

Therefore, we firmly believe that effective implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) demands a renewed commitment by Parties to bridge existing scientific and institutional gaps. Strengthened investment in research, education, and data harmonization, coupled with coordinated national strategies, can effectively safeguard soil ecosystems and reinforce the resilience of agricultural systems, creating valuable contributions to the broader goals of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.